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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk September 6, 2015

East edition No 676

DEATH

Probe begins into triathlon tragedy

As well-wishers donate more than £17,000

EDUCATION

College drops all A-level lessons

Latest to concentrate only on vocational courses

EXCLUSIVE

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As figures rise, we need to take foot off the gas

EVERYTIME we run a story about speed limits or cameras on our roads, you can feel confident the following week our postbag will have a number of letters with passionate arguments of how we should be able to drive as fast as we jolly well please.

The argument is often backed with facts and figures, but still tends to cling to the theory that those who make the laws for our roads impose the limits simply to spoil our fun.

'Nanny state' is often wheeled out for any rule or regulation which seeks to protect us. But, in truth, the government of the day ought to do just that. It ought to take sensible steps to reduce risk, to ensure we thrive.

Those who enjoy shouting the loudest - thus frequently being misinterpreted as representing the majority - who suggest we should all put our foot down willy nilly are missing the point. And that is that limits are there to protect both ourselves and others. Even a clear, safe road can become a peril if a tyre blows, or someone or thing strays onto the road surface. It's for that very reason we should not seek to set our own rules.

In the news pages this week we highlight the worrying statistic that the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads has risen 10 per cent over the last year. Each one of those can have a profound impact on the lives of not only those involved, but their friends and family too. Almost all were the cause of the road user's mistake. Proof, if proof were needed, that we are not all infallible, despite the arguments to the contrary.

We are fortunate not to live in a war-torn nation; blessed in fact. We should ensure we don't spoil that by creating carnage on our carriageways.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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PAGE 12 »

PAGE 22 »

PAGE 30 »

PAGE 27 »

PAGE 14 »

PAGE 21 »

Contents

News

05 **Sharp rise in road deaths**
Number of serious incidents up 10%

06 **Deal agreed for ferries**
MyFerryLink ships finally handed over

12 **Tragedy of the triathlete**
Donations to charity website rocket

14 **Warning to mums-to-be**
Demand for vital test to be given on NHS

19 **Is it time to scrap PCCs?**
As elections loom, first part of a special report

21 **Medics swim the Channel**
But waterskiing bid by OAP falls short

22 **College pulls A level plug**
Nearly 200 students have to shift courses

24 **Boris swings the bat**
In charity cricket event

30 **Baden-Powell**
Look at his local links

PAGE 24 »

The Arts

27 **Emin at car boot sale**
Sales event with an artistic difference

35 **Get down to Avenue Q**
Hit show heads from Broadway to here

Homes & Gardens

39 **Special guide just for you**
Get your house and grounds in order this autumn with our special supplement

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Deaths and injuries on our roads rocket by 10%

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

BEHAVIOUR: The way we conduct ourselves on the road is responsible for the rise in serious incidents

OFFICIAL statistics have revealed a worrying rise in the number of people killed or left seriously injured on our roads.

The data released this week show those killed or seriously injured (KSI) rose by 10 per cent in 2014 - up from 650 to 715 across Kent and Medway.

Steve Horton, road safety team leader at Kent County Council, said: "On the road, one mistake or a moment's inattention can have tragic consequences, and human error is a factor in 95 per cent of crashes."

Satistics show in 2014, the proportion of KSI crashes caused by driver or rider error, behaviour or 'impairment' increased, compared with the previous year. Studies suggest that around three-quarters of all crashes resulting in injury, occur solely due to the behaviour of drivers, such as distractions like mobile phones, dangerous speeds, or driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

As a result, KCC's road safety team has launched a safety campaign called 'One Road For All'.

Mr Horton said: "Too many people are involved in crashes on Kent's roads and our One Road For All campaign aims to show how we can all help reduce that number by being more patient, being more alert to other road users and by sharing the road safely."

In Kent, organisations such as the police, Highways England, KCC, Medway Council and Kent Fire and Rescue Service have banded together to form the Casualty Reduction Partnership (CaRe). the group co-ordinates road safety activity, and tries to reduce the number of fatalities on Kent and Medway's roads each year.

However, although the figures are up year-on-year, the overall picture is more positive.

The number of KSIs has dropped 49 per cent between 1994 and 2014. In addition, the number of 17 to 24-year-olds involved also dropped.

Matthew Balfour, KCC's cabinet member for transport, said: "These crashes have a life-changing impact for those involved and their families.

"Research clearly shows that the vast majority are caused by poor driving or other human factors. It is vital, therefore that we all recognise the way we drive, ride or walk plays a big part in helping us or our relatives to avoid becoming a road casualty."

Hunt on for thugs who hurl rocks at motorists in picturesque villages

A DRIVER has suffered cuts to her face after a rock was thrown through her windscreen as she travelled through Benenden.

Now police are calling on motorists to report any similar incident as they start the hunt for those responsible following a spate of incidents in the area.

It was at least the third attack reported in recent weeks.

The injured woman was hurt after the missile struck her car in New Pond Road, Benenden, at about 1.25pm on Tuesday, August 18.

A similar incident occurred two days later at about 12.25pm, when a rock was reportedly thrown at a woman's car shortly after she stopped in Whitewell Lane, Cranbrook.

Then on Friday, August 21, also in New Pond Road, a woman sitting in the passenger seat of a car suffered scratches to her face and chest when a rock was reportedly thrown through the windscreen from a brown van heading in the direction of Iden Green, between 1.15pm and 1.30pm.

A small number of similar incidents have also been reported in the Sandhurst, Biddenden and Rolvenden area in recent months, and officers are keen to hear from anyone else who may have been targeted.

PC Lee Oakley, of the Tunbridge Wells community safety unit, said: "Throwing anything at a moving vehicle is incredibly stupid and dangerous, and could easily lead to somebody being seriously injured or worse.

"Reports of this nature are thankfully rare but anyone caught committing such crimes will face serious repercussions. We are increasing patrols in the areas affected but we also want motorists to be aware these incidents are occurring."

Anyone with information should call 01892 502055 or email west.division.media.appeals@kent.pnn.police.uk.

Dartford becomes part of TfL's Zone 8 this weekend

DARTFORD travellers get to use their Oyster cards or contactless payment methods on Southeastern services as the station shifts into Transport for London's extended reach.

It means Dartford now becomes part of TfL's Zone 8 and, as a consequence, can take advantage of discounted fares.

Currently a standard single to Dartford is £8.40. As of today, when the terminals are switched on, it will be just £7 in peak times and £4 off-peak.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: ''Integrating the fares on this route with the wider TfL network makes perfect sense and ties in with our mission to make getting around our city easy for everyone, no matter where they live.''

Year 6 pupils prepare to sit 11-plus for grammar places

PUPILS across the county seeking a place at a grammar school will sit the Kent Test this week.

The 11-plus exam is the method used by the county's schooling system to determine if a child is suitable for a place in one of our selective schools.

Parents had to apply during the last school year to take part in the tests which will be sat by Year 6 students living in the county on Thursday, September 10.

Those living outside the county's borders wanting to try and secure a place will sit it two days later.

Meanwhile, those living in Medway can sit the unitary authority's equivalent 11-plus paper – the Medway Test – the following week, on September 15 or 16.

Results are expected in October.

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Crackdown to ease fears over 'public decency'

A FAMILY park in Dartford is being blighted by men "acting in a manner likely to offend public decency" which has prompted a major crackdown by council chiefs.

Officers from Dartford council's community safety unit say they are contacting the owners of a number of vehicles involved in anti-social behaviour.

A spokesperson for Dartford Borough Council said: "Dartford Heath is a place for families and all who want to enjoy the peace and quiet of this wonderful environment. They do not wish to have their innocent walks spoiled.

"Someone needs to stand up for them and the council's community safety unit is determined to do just that."

French workers release ferries held captive over collapse of MyFerryLink

By Chris Britcher
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ONE of the major problems which has contributed to the chaos suffered by so many cross-Channel ferry travellers this summer appears to finally have been resolved.

One of the major stumbling blocks has been that fuming workers from MyFerryLink – the ferry firm owned by Eurotunnel which closed after a dispute with competition chiefs – have occupied two of its former vessels.

As a consequence, the ferries Rodin and Berlioz have not been able to be used as French workers staged a sit-in protest at the loss of jobs.

Rival ferry company, Danish firm DFDS Seaways, has long since agreed to buy the ferries to use on its existing Dover to Calais and Dover to Dunkirk routes.

But angry staff of SCOP-SeaFrance, a co-operative which ran MyFerryLink for Eurotunnel, said they wanted to protect the jobs of hundreds of their colleagues which would be lost as a consequence.

RELIEF: Pressure will be relieved

This week, however, a deal has been struck between Eurotunnel, DFDS and SCOP.

It means the two ships will now be released back into service and more than 400 or the 487 jobs at risk saved.

Carsten Jensen, senior vice-president at DFDS, said: "This ends a long period of uncertainty for both our employees and our customers on the Channel as this agreement gives us the platform needed to create a sustainable ferry service on the Channel. It also means that we have an equal number of French and UK-flagged ships on the Channel, making the service a truly Anglo-French partnership, which we believe is in everyone's best interests."

The reduced capacity on the route had led to problems and played a role in Operation Stack being introduced - where the M20 is transformed into a lorry park due to a backlog of freight trying to cross the Channel.

DFDS will finally operate the boats once Eurotunnel has ensured the vessels are suitable for use once again. The occupying crew left the vessels on Wednesday.

Eurotunnel was told by competition chiefs it had to dispose of MyFerryLink amid claims it had too much of a stranglehold on the route.

AUTHOR: Frederick Forsyth

Forsyth: I was an M16 agent for 20 years

BESTSELLING author Frederick Forsyth has revealed in his upcoming autobiograhy that he worked as an agent for MI6 for more than 20 years.

The author, 77, was born in Ashford and attended Tonbridge School, before embarking on a writing career at Ashford's Kentish Express newspaper as a teenager.

He would go on to write a string of hits - perhaps his biggest being his debut book, The Day of The Jackal, which went on to be made into a high-grossing film.

Other books included the Odessa File, the Dogs of War and the Fourth Protocol.

His autobiography, The Outsider, is published this Thursday, September 10.

He said he was making the revelations as "it is 55, 60 years later. There have been memoirs written, highly secret minutes have been published. There's no East Germany, no Stasi, no KGB, no Soviet Union, so where's the harm?"

He revealed he carried out missions in East Germany during the 1960s and 70s.

He added: "It was the Cold War, it was serious and dangerous."

However, he says he had to take care not to reveal too much information about MI6's methods in writing his books and had to check with the agency to ensure he was not revealing top secrets.

Football ace, 16, left in coma after match

A YOUNG footballer spent the week in hospital in an induced coma after collapsing on the pitch during a match in Dartford last weekend.

Welling United youth player Ali Reith, who turned 16 on Tuesday, had to be given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR after he suddenly fell to the ground during the pre-season friendly on Saturday, in front of shocked onlookers.

However, Dartford club chiefs said updates from his family "seemed positive" and the teenager was progressing "well, albeit slowly".

Welling's under-16s were playing Dartford at Princes Park.

A statement on Welling United's website said: "Everyone at the club would like to extend our best wishes and thoughts to Ali and his family.

"We would to thank Tony Burman and Phil Murray from Dartford FC along with our own management team of Dave Shaw and John Cotton for their quick response to this traumatic event."

Dartford has sent its best wishes to the family.

Fight to boost mobile reception needs help

SOUTH Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay is asking constituents to provide him with information on poor mobile phone coverage, saying he'll fight to get constituents better reception.

The Conservative MP says that after receiving a number of complaints from members of the public, he has requested a meeting with representatives from network providers Vodafone, EE, O2 and 3.

He says he will use the opportunity to argue for better mobile network coverage in Thanet after reports that many areas of his constituency have poor voice, and nonexistent data, coverage.

Mr Mackinlay said "What I need to compile is a report with hard evidence to present to the mobile networks at our meeting, pinpointing where drop-out and poor coverage occur."

The MP says that he needs residents in Thanet to contact him with information where coverage is bad. He says he needs postcode location, network provider, number of 'bars' of signal and data speeds recorded.

More than 200 sites put forward for plans

MORE than 200 sites in and around the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council area have been put forward by landowners, as the authority gets ready to formally discuss its development strategy going forward.

And one leading council figure says the public will be 'surprised' by some of those proposed.

The 'call for sites' forms part of the process which will see the first formal public consultations get under way in the spring.

The sites put forward in this way then have to undergo a technical assessment, before they can then be properly considered and form the basis of public consultation and choices the council will ultimately need to make.

The sites range from relatively modest ones to those of a much more strategic nature.

To enable borough councillors to get an early feel for the range of sites, a report is being made to the council's planning and transportation advisory board on September 8.

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Council says 'no plans' to ban ciggie breaks for workers

Jamie Weir
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KENT County Council has no plans to follow a proposal by Nottinghamshire County Council to ban staff from smoking during breaks, according to a council spokesman.

However, they said that it would be interesting to see how the proposal – if given the green light – by Nottingham council worked in practice.

That was echoed by Labour Party health spokesman at KCC, Mike Eddy, who said he felt it was unlikely Kent would ever adopt a similar rule for staff.

He told KoS: "I very much doubt KCC would ever consider it, as there are a couple of significant members on the council who are themselves smokers."

The initiative would stop all of Nottinghamshire's 9,000 staff from smoking during their short morning and afternoon breaks, while also preventing staff in uniform from smoking on their way to and from work.

Smokers would only be allowed to light up during their longer lunch break.

The ban would also extend to e-cigarettes, despite them being branded 95 per cent safer than cigarettes by government body Public Health England.

Cllr Eddy said: "I could well see it being beneficial for employees health and also the council as well. However, there is the alternative side of the argument, with some employees becoming unhappy if they were forced to miss their fix.

"I'm not a smoker, so it would be fairly easy for me to take a draconian view on it, but actually the best thing for smokers is to use the stop smoking programmes and give up willingly.

"You're not going to help anyone by forcing them down a route. It will definitely be interesting for us to watch what happens with Nottinghamshire's experience, but I can't see KCC imposing this anytime soon."

That may be a good thing as Nottinghamshire County Council looks set for an entrenched battle with public sector union Unison, which has said the new rule would be 'unenforceable'.

Medway Council was asked to comment about the plan but had not responded by the time we went to press.

SMOKE: No plans to ban council employees from smoking a fag in Kent... yet

Chippy named best in the entire region

A FAST food restaurant in Ditton has been named the top fish and chip shop in the south east.

Papa's Barn beat off challenges from outlets in Sussex, Kent and Surrey in the 2016 National Fish and Chip Awards.

It now takes on London champ Poppies Fish and Chips in Spitalfields to win the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year Award. The winner will be announced on January 20.

Cycling courses lined up by county council

KENT County Council is telling people to 'get on their bike' with a number of free bicycle training courses for adults.

The training is aimed at building confidence of how to cycle safely to improve health, the environment and to provide an alternative to many short car journeys. See www.kent.gov.uk.

It's time for Stoptober

WANT to quit smoking? Or know someone who does? Then now is the time to sign up to Stoptober – the nationwide initiative to get people to stop.

Figures reveal 17.2 per cent of south east resident still smoke, and Public Health England hopes the high profile month-long campaign during October will reduce that further. To sign up, visit www.smokefree.nhs.uk/stoptober.

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Jail for sex offender, 42, after grooming child on Facebook

A SEX offender who posed as a teenager in order to groom a child via Facebook has been jailed for 21 months.

Douglas Warren, 42, formerly of Pine Grove, Edenbridge, exchanged explicit images and videos with his victim and planned to meet her at a hotel. However, the booking was cancelled when Warren learned Kent Police was aware of his online activity.

He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after admitting four counts relating to child sex offences and eight counts relating to the possession and/or making of pornographic images including child abuse images.

In addition to a custodial sentence of 21 months, Warren must also sign the sex offenders' register for 10 years.

The court heard how Warren claimed to be aged 19 when he first sent his victim a friend request on Facebook. Officers seized Warren's mobile telephone, laptop computer and other devices following his arrest a month later and found more than 4,000 child abuse images and 31 extreme pornographic images.

Police warned parents to be vigilant of their children online.

Young people encouraged to have say on policing

YOUNGSTERS in the county are being encouraged to take part in a live web chat to have their say on local policing.

Kent police and crime commissioner, Ann Barnes, and Kent Police assistant chief constable Jo Shiner are holding the online meeting on Monday, September 14, at 6pm for one hour.

Mrs Barnes said: "As part of my commitment to engage with young people and involve them in policing I'd particularly like to hear from 16-24 year olds in the county at the next web chat.

"It's a totally open forum and we want to hear their thoughts on any policing matter that's important to them; from local issues around crime or anti-social behaviour to their experience as victims of crime or how they feel they are treated by their local police.

"Young people often have the most refreshing views and ideas and web chats are a really convenient way they can get involved and find out what the force is doing to tackle the issues they raise.'

To take part, visit the Kent Police website and follow the link to the web chat.

If you are unable to join in live, you can send your question in advance to communications@kent.pnn.police.uk and it will be answered during the chat.

This is, of course, not the first time Ann Barnes has attempted to engage with the youth of the county.

Her original appointment of a dedicated youth commissioner ended up a fiasco. It was scrapped earlier this year.

Jeremy Corbyn visit

LABOUR leadership hopeful Jeremy Corbyn was due in Margate this weekend - precisely one week before the result of the vote is revealed.

The left-winger was set to host a rally at the Winter Gardens on Saturday. He hopes to be elected successor to Ed Miliband.

Regeneration begins

REGENERATION of Swanley has taken a step closer after a Sevenoaks council committee agreed to the redevelopment of the Meeting Point in the High Street.

It will see 14 new flats and commercial space created as phase one of an ambitious project to rejuvenate the town.

MEP on fishing quotas

SOUTH East MEP Catherine Bearder met Whitstable fishermen on Friday to discuss their concerns with EU fishing quotas.

The Lib Dem member of the EU's environment committee, vowed to feedback answers from those at the working harbour to the European parliament.

Register for transplants

HEALTH chiefs are urging us all to ensure we agree to donate our organs after our death as part of National Transplant Week, which runs from September 7-13.

A third of adults have not decided whether to donate their organs, according to NHS Blood and Transplant.

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Top Three Stories

1. Wasps set for invasion

Insects boom during September expected

2. Regeneration plans push

Progress on project for 1,000 new homes

3. Corbyn heads our way

Labour leader candidate visits Margate

The Essential Guide:

...to 'smart' motorways

View the story at KentNews.co.uk by visiting http://bit.ly/1JA4Axg

FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Thousands headed into Margate last weekend to attend a car boot sale with an artistic difference last week ast the likes of Tracey Emin and Sir Peter Blake sold their works. You can see more images elsewhere in this edition.

Missed last week's...?

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Top Three Blogs

1. Time for Labour to split?

Can party ever hope to reunite for power?

2. Dead celebrities age us

Big names dying remind us of our mortality

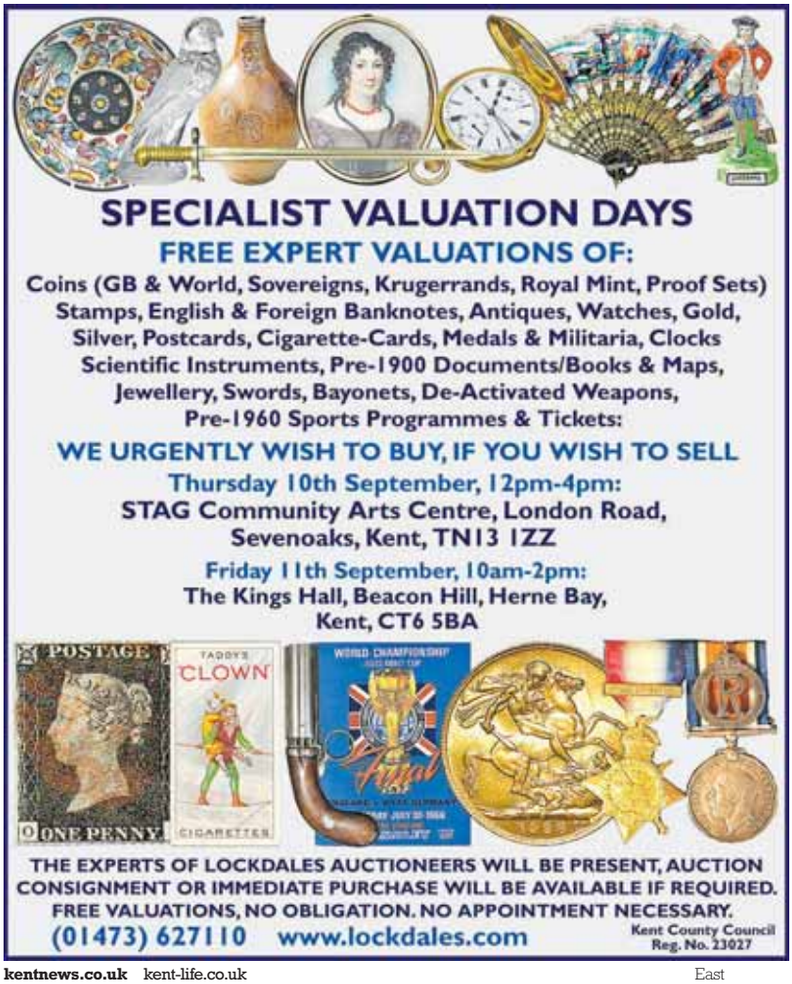
3. Leave Blackadder be

Let's not revive BBC classic comedy series

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Will you welcome Syrian refugees settling in Kent?

1. Yes - without question 43%
2. Yes - but only in the short term 14%
3. No 38%
4. Undecided 5%



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400	1200	1052	£103.60	£74.00
400	1600	1390	£154.00	£110.00
500	800	859	£86.80	£62.00
500	1000	1015	£96.60	£69.00
500	1200	1240	£105.00	£75.00
500	1600	1638	£166.60	£119.00
500	1800	1882	£180.66	£129.00
600	800	995	£86.80	£62.00
600	1000	1174	£102.20	£73.00
600	1200	1439	£110.60	£79.00
600	1600	1899	£172.20	£123.00
600	1800	2184	£184.87	£133.00

Curved Rails

Width mm	Height mm	BTU	List Price	TKM Price
400	800	725	£89.60	£64.00
400	1000	864	£99.40	£71.00
400	1200	1052	£107.80	£77.00
400	1600	1390	£162.00	£116.00
500	800	859	£93.80	£67.00
500	1000	1015	£101.47	£73.00
500	1200	1240	£110.60	£79.00
500	1600	1638	£169.40	£121.00
500	1800	1882	£183.40	£131.00
600	800	995	£92.40	£66.00
600	1000	1174	£105.00	£75.00
600	1200	1439	£166.20	£83.00
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Big delays hit Eurostar as migrants target trains

Efforts by those migrants in Calais seeking to gain access to the UK took a fresh twist this week when they climbed on board high-speed Eurostar services through the Channel Tunnel, delaying some travellers for 16 hours.

By David Mercer and Rachael Burnett
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MIGRANTS desperately trying to reach Britain have started targeting Eurostar trains because of increased security measures at the Channel Tunnel, operator Eurotunnel has said.

It follows yet more chaotic scenes overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, when migrants attempted to enter the UK targeted the high-speed Eurostar services for the first time.

Passengers stranded in northern France overnight described being "surrounded by migrants" who blocked tracks and climbed on to train carriages in their efforts to enter the UK.

Some faced delays of 16 hours.

Two trains were forced to turn back, one to London and one to Paris, while a rescue train was sent for passengers left in "disgusting" conditions when their service broke down near Calais.

Eurotunnel said security measures introduced at the tunnel in recent weeks - including extra fencing and more patrols - meant migrants were trying to break on to nearby tracks used by Eurostar and freight trains at Calais-Frethun station.

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe said: "Since Channel Tunnel security increased over the past few months, we've seen the migrant problem displace to other areas as they try to get on to trains before they reach the tunnel.

"They're stopping trains by blocking the tracks, then trying to get through the tunnel, but we won't accept trains with migrants on."

Home secretary Theresa May insisted last month that new security measures were taking effect at Calais when she toured a £7 million ring of steel surrounding the Eurotunnel terminal at Coquelles.

But Ukip MP Douglas Carswell said the Government should have anticipated that migrants would seek other ways to enter Britain after security was increased at the tunnel.

He said: "We've only got one rail link with mainland Europe and yet it seems to be beyond the capability of our Government to keep it open and secure.

"On the basic idea of safeguarding a rail link, our officials are clueless.

"You would have thought the Government would have anticipated this problem would occur. It's a problem which has been running for several months."

Migrants had previously targeted only Eurotunnel trains which run a shuttle service for vehicles between Cheriton and Coquelles.

Eurostar said the six trains affected could carry up to 4,500 passengers but refused to reveal the exact number who were disrupted.

French police were called to Calais just before 9pm on Tuesday following reports that migrants were on the tracks and climbing on top of train carriages.

One London-bound train was unable to get back to Paris due to a technical fault so passengers were forced to wait for hours on the train and later at Calais-Frethun.

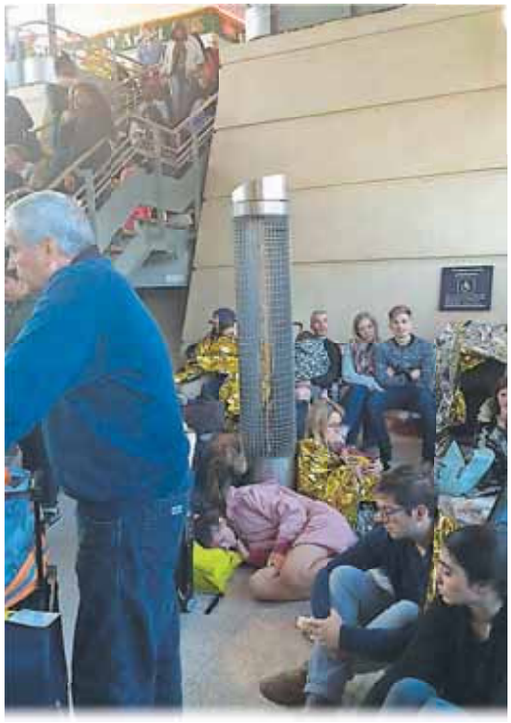
Exhausted passengers arriving at London's St Pancras International on Wednesday claimed they were left on the train for hours with no food, in darkness and overbearing heat after the power was cut, then packed into a cold station after the carriages were finally evacuated.

George Golesack, 34, from Bethnal Green, east London, said: "People were trying to climb on the train. They were searching for two hours because they said there were people on the roof.

"One woman had a massive panic attack and another woman who was pregnant had to be taken to hospital."

Bridget Roussel, 52, from Greenwich, south-east London, said: "Just before we got to the tunnel it was chaos. The lights went off and the air conditioning went off, it was so hot.

"It was just disgusting. I've never experienced anything like that in my life. The worst thing was that there was no communication whatsoever."



CHAOS: Passengers faced huge delays overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, with many left stranded at stations, pictured, after a broken down train and then migrants trying to climb onboard Eurostar services at Calais railway station. Pictures: SIMON GENTRY/HANNAY MCKAY/PA WIRE

FRESH FREIGHT WARNING OVER CALAIS CRISIS

FREIGHT companies have warned of ''grave'' consequences unless security is tightened in Calais amid ongoing concerns about the migrant crisis.

Eurotunnel has lifted a suspension on British-bound goods trains passing through the tunnel, which started over the bank holiday weekend, one of the busiest times of the year for passenger travel.

Up to 10 trains a night were prevented from delivering goods to Britain, affecting the delivery of steel and cars which are often transported using rail freight services.

The Freight Transport Association (FTA), based in Tunbridge Wells, and DB Schenker, a leading freight operator, have now called for improved security in Calais as it emerged most migrants are now trying to board trains outside of the Channel Tunnel perimeter.

Geoff Spencer, chief executive of DB Schenker Rail UK, said: ''We need immediate and concerted action; enhancement to security fencing at Calais Frethun, increases in security manpower and inter-agency co-operation - all are critical to ensure uninterrupted rail freight services can resume.

''Without these the consequences for the future of international rail freight will be very grave. Our customers cannot and will not wait whilst the UK and French authorities debate what might be done and by when.

''I cannot stress too much the importance for UK business of international rail freight services returning to normal as soon as possible.''

Chris McRae, the FTA's manager of rail freight policy, said: ''While the volume by freight trains is comparatively small, users of freight train services are from specific industries where rail freight is more suitable than road freight.

''It's not been a security issue with the tunnel itself. It's a security issue with one of the yards.''

HERO: The last photograph of Mr Gallihawk taken just moments before he took part in the 750-metre swim at Leybourne Lakes, near Maidstone. Inset - tributes left at the lakes - pic: ELLIE HOSKINS

Probe into triathlon death after charity donations reach £17,000

On bank holiday Monday, the body of Paul Gallihawk was retrieved from Leybourne Lakes after he went missing during an open water swim. **Chris Murphy** reports on just what went so terribly wrong

ORGANISERS of triathlon events around the county are waiting upon the results of an investigation into the tragic death of Paul Gallihawk last weekend.

The 34-year-old from Maidstone took to the water at Leybourne Lakes last weekend as a competitor in the Ocean Lakes Triathlon event.

But the alarm was raised when organisers noted one of the bicycles waiting for the competitors had not been collected after the 750-metre open water swim.

More than 100 athletes were taking part in the event which started with the swim, following by a 14-mile bike ride and rounded off by a five-mile run.

A desperate search was initiated with rescue teams retrieving his body in the lakes two days later, on bank holiday Monday.

He was completing the race for charity - hoping to raise £300. By the end of the week, more than 1,000 well-wishers had donated well in excess of £17,000 for his chosen charity, the Kings College Hospital in London, which had treated his father.

After the tragedy, Paul's dad Malcolm, mum Linda and brother Nick said: "Words cannot express how we feel and what Paul meant not only to us but to all of his family and friends.

"Paul was a brilliant son and brother to Nick – he would do anything to help anyone and would always put them first. He had such a caring nature and will be sadly missed by all the family, extended family and friends."

On Friday, at the Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone, an inquest was opened and adjourned to allow further investigations to be carried out.

A post-mortem examination has been carried out to establish the cause of death but at the time of writing, the result was not made public.

With flowers left at the scene as a tribute, his brother Nick added: "Paul was the most caring brother and best friend I could have ever asked for."

His girlfriend, named only as Hayley, said: "Paul and I had been together for five years and he was the most amazing and thoughtful partner. He was incredible in every way and he always put others before himself. I loved him to bits and always will."

His friends also released a statement, saying: "Many of us have known Paul since we went to school together and we are all completely heartbroken. He was a genuine and honest man – he was the funniest person in the world, without being funny.

"Paul was a Tottenham fan and had recently set up and managed Whitehawks FC. It had only been running a short while but Paul was the main reason the team managed to win the league and the cup.

> **"He was always positive, doing good for others. He was more of a brother than a friend. We are all completely heartbroken by what has happened."**
>
> **Friends of Paul Gallihawk,** Make moving tribute after death

"He was always positive, doing good for others. He was more of a brother than a friend."

The initial investigation into his death is being carried out by the coroner with the help of Kent Police.

The Health and Safety Executive has been made aware and is keeping a watching brief on developments, plus the sport's governing body is also waiting news to see if any lessons can be learned to prevent similar tragedies occurring again in the future.

The coroner, HSE and British Triathlon Federation now all want to know what happened after Mr Gallihawk took to the lake.

It is understood routine medical investigations will examine if there were any substances in his body that could have contributed to him getting into trouble.

Also on the agenda will be a full physical examination to establish if he had any hidden, or otherwise, conditions, possibly with his heart, or whether the cold water could have possibly affected him.

Helen Gorman, of the British Triathlon Federation told us: "I'd say we are working with the police rather than actually doing the investigation.

"It was terribly sad. We are waiting for further information from the police when available."

And federation boss Jack Buckner added: "The event was cancelled following the incident to allow emergency services to focus on their efforts to find Mr Gallihawk. We were all deeply saddened to hear the confirmation that he had died.

"Tragedies are unfortunately inevitable in any sport, but the loss of a young participant in triathlon, a sport often seen as an exemplar in its ability to promote physical wellbeing and fitness, is a shock to us all.

"British Triathlon permitted over 1,200 events this year, each organised according to specific quality and safety standards. The BTF has clear health and safety guidelines that are adhered to by organisers to ensure that they provide a safe, enjoyable and quality experience to competitors."

We asked the federation how many spotter boats were on the water, crewed by how many, and whether Mr Gallihawk was wearing a yellow cap to denote he was a triathlon novice.

A federation spokesman said: "The club put the event on, not British Triathlon or Triathlon England, but our role is to provide guidance on safety and such matters, for example, how many safety boats there are and so on.

"I have been told Mr Gallihawk did wear a yellow cap to denote he was a novice, but I do not know this with 100 per cent confidence. It's not standard practice in every triathlon that a novice wears a yellow cap – cap colours can vary and not every event requires novices to identify themselves in this way.

"As for the safety boats, these things are being investigated."

We contacted the club which organised the event but no one was available. Anyone wanting to donate money can do so via Mr Gallihawk's Just Giving charity website: at www.justgiving.com/Paul-Gallihawk.

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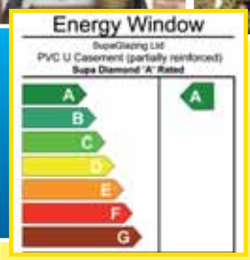

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BORN: Little Molly was rushed to the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham

'Mums-to-be need to know if they are at risk'

After seeing her daughter fight for life, a mother is demanding the NHS checks for rare condition

By Andrew Hirst
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIKE most first-time mothers, Emily Rance wanted the best for her baby daughter's entrance to the world.

Her sister had given birth just months previously without any complications and she had no reason to believe her delivery would be any different.

"How wrong could I have been," she said.

Baby Molly was one of hundreds of babies born in the UK each year infected with group B Streptococcal (GBS) – a usually harmless bacteria carried by around a fifth of pregnant women but that can become life-threatening if exposed to infants around the time of labour.

Thankfully, eight months on, Molly appears to have made a full recovery. But with dozens of infected babies dying each year, and more suffering long-term mental and physical disabilities, Molly's parents are backing a simple solution to stem the problem.

Tests to detect and then prevent GBS in pregnant women are offered routinely in many other countries where infection rates have dropped – but not the UK.

Emily and Paul Rance, from Maidstone, have told their story to raise awareness of the Group B Strep Support group and its calls for government to introduce routine testing.

The government, however, says its current approach, to test those deemed to be at risk, is appropriate to ensure the safety of babies.

Mrs Rance, a 25-year-old supermarket worker, disagrees.

"When I heard the Government would not offer these £11 tests, I was fuming," she said.

"I did not know about

OFFERING SUPPORT

THE Group B Support Group estimates at least 400 babies in the UK are infected with GBS every year, which it says is the most common cause of life-threatening infections in newborns.

Around a tenth of infected babies die, while half of those infected with GBS meningitis suffer long-term mental and physical problems.

The charity claims the tests remain unavailable to most NHS health professionals, and has launched its new campaign "Why guess... when you can test?".

A petition on Change.org has amassed nearly 200,000 signatures calling for every pregnant woman to be offered more information about GBS, as well as access to the ECM test and antibiotics during labour if GBS is detected.

Jane Plumb MBE, chief executive of Group B Strep, said: "Most group B Strep infection in newborn babies can be prevented. Knowing whether a mum carries group B Strep enable her to make an informed decision about what's right for her unborn baby."

A recent programme which offered screening to all expectant women at Northwick Park NHS hospital in north-west London resulted in not a single case of the bacteria spreading to infants among those who were tested and subsequently treated with antibiotics.

The only recorded cases during the 12-month programme affected babies of women who had not agreed to be tested.

To find out more about the campaign visit www.gbss.uk/why-guess.

the investigations unit
ARCHANT

RECOVERY: Little Molly just days old and fighting for her life in intensive care, left, and, right, with her relieved mum Emily at their Maidstone home today after she has made a full recovery from the illness

group B Strep and the tests until it was too late; I'd have paid for it myself if I knew I could have avoided those months of hell and trauma."

If GBS reaches a baby's bloodstream or lungs it can cause septicaemia or meningitis, either of which can be fatal.

For Molly, the infection resulted in pneumonia, which can also prove deadly.

Even before her birth at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury last January, Molly had shown worrying signs.

Mrs Rance was admitted on the Monday, but by Wednesday her waters had still not broken.

It was decided that a caesarean operation would be the best way to deliver her baby.

Just hours after birth, Molly "turned blue", panicking her mother who called for help from the medical staff.

Mrs Rance said the nurse was satisfied Molly was fine after she started to cry having been picked up and patted on the back.

She, however, remained concerned for her newborn baby.

They were taken upstairs to the neonatal ward, where Molly's breathing became strained.

But it was only when she turned blue again, started screaming and sweating that she was rushed to the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham for emergency treatment.

"I was really panicking," Mrs Rance said.

"It was horrific - the worst experience of my life."

Molly was put into an induced coma and remained unconscious for the next six days, during which she was given a lumbar puncture and administered oxygen and antibiotics.

It was only during this time that Molly's parents learned she had been infected with GBS.

"I hadn't even heard about it before," said Mrs Rance.

"When you're pregnant you get told all sorts of things, but the first I'd heard of group B Strep was when Molly was ill.

"Now all my friends know about it and they've all paid for the test."

The test is available privately for around £30, while the "gold standard" enriched culture medium (ECM) tests are intended to be available for

Turn to page 16

WHY NO CHECKS ON THE NHS?

ANNE Mackie is director of programmes for the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC).

It advises ministers and the NHS about all aspects of population screening and supports the implementation of those screening programmes.

She said the current stance was taken following a review in collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), the Royal College of Midwives and NHS England.

Dr Mackie explained: ''The most recent review of screening concluded that the probability of a baby being affected by Early-Onset Group B Streptococcus (EOGBS) identified by antenatal testing with the ECM would be very low.

''However, the number of women offered antibiotics as a result of a positive test result would be very high. This could expose the mother and baby to unnecessary antibiotic use.

''We want to reassure women that if, during pregnancy, or following the birth of their baby, there is any risk of an infection, appropriate treatment would be offered to ensure their and their baby's safety.''

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WORRIED?: HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

PREGNANT women who are concerned about whether GBS could infect their baby during labour are advised to visit www.gbss.uk/test to find out where they can get the "gold standard" test.

The test will normally be offered to mothers whose babies are deemed at high risk, but some hospitals offer it upon request.

It is available privately from around £35 for a home-testing pack.

If you are found to be carrying GBS during pregnancy you should be offered intravenous antibiotics from the start of labour and at intervals until your baby is born, which minimises the chances of infection.

BIRTH: Molly was born at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury but the infection was not picked up on. When diagnosed she was rushed to the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham for treatment.

Continued from page 15

healthcare professionals to use on high-risk mothers.

The support group, however, claims this test is not in widespread use, despite costing the NHS only £11.

If a test proves positive it means the mother can be given antibiotics during labour, reducing the chance of infection passing to the baby.

In Molly's case, the infection meant two weeks of intensive care. Even after being discharged her health continued to suffer and she was back in hospital with a separate infection just six weeks later.

"That's what tipped me over the edge," said Mrs Rance.

"I'm normally a happy, bubbly person, but this has knocked me sideways and I'm still on antidepressants today. It's even put me off having more kids."

Molly had her final check up at the beginning of August and now her mother says "you wouldn't even know she'd been ill".

"But there are lots of other stories that don't have such a happy ending," she added.

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS GBS?

IT is one of many bacteria that can be present in our bodies. It usually causes no harm. This situation is called 'carrying' GBS or being colonised with GBS.

It's estimated that about one pregnant woman in five in the UK carries GBS in their digestive system or their vagina.

Around the time of labour and birth, many babies come into contact with GBS and are colonised by the bacteria. Most are unaffected but a small number can become infected.

If a baby develops GBS infection less than seven days after birth, it's known as early-onset GBS infection. Most babies infected develop symptoms within 12 hours of birth. Symptoms include: being floppy and unresponsive; not feeding well; grunting; high or low temperature; fast or slow heart rates; fast or slow breathing rates; irritability.

It's estimated that about one in 2,000 babies born in the UK and Ireland develops early-onset GBS infection. This means in the UK (with 680,000 births a year) around 340 babies a year will develop early-onset GBS.

Source: NHS

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CONTROVERSIAL: Ann Barnes has done plenty of good in difficult circumstances - but her PR gaffes have cost her dearly with her reputation severely tarnished. Will she stand again next May?

Big Debate: Should we call time on the police commissioner post?

SPECIAL REPORT PART ONE: This week, **Jamie Weir** speaks to those who believe the role of police and crime commissioner needs to be scrapped. Next week, Ann Barnes puts her case for the defence

WHEN trying to establish whether the creation of the US-style role of police and crime commissioner has proved a success, it is nigh-on impossible to have the debate without casting the spotlight on the woman who occupies the role in Kent.

Ann Barnes romped to victory when the very first elections were held back in November 2012 and is likely – but not yet confirmed – to stand again with elections due in May 2016.

Initially opposed to the creation of the role, which replaced the Kent Police Authority she herself headed up – she opted to run, as an independent, coming top in every single Kent constituency.

She could certainly not be blamed for a largely apathetic turn-out. Just 16 per cent of the county's registered voters turned out to cast their ballot. The national average was 15.1 per cent – the lowest turn-out for an election in British peacetime history.

The Electoral Reform Society described it as 'a lesson in how not to run an election'.

Concerns covered everything from costs involved to the more fundamental question of whether the public, as a whole, understood exactly the commissioner's role and why they were actually required.

But she could certainly be held responsible for attracting negative publicity for the role – even coming under fire from prime minister David Cameron – courtesy of a string of PR gaffes that had dramatically backfired.

The result has been that a role which the public didn't care for, and which was going to need to excel to impress, has failed to ignite the imagination.

Not that Ann Barnes is personally responsible for what many consider a flawed layer of administration. Perhaps misjudged in the first place, those across the country elected into office in that fateful November have taken on something of a poisoned chalice.

Funding for the police has been savagely slashed leaving the police and crime commissioner (PCC) – whose responsibility includes budgets – spending much of their time trying to work out how less money can deliver the level of visible policing the public not only expects, but demands.

The quandary is an impossible one to solve and the PCC has gone from crime-busting to fire-fighting.

Whatever good the commissioners manage to achieve is overshadowed by a rising concern over our perception, at least, of how safe our communities are.

Jonathan Isaby is chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance lobby group. He said: "Taxpayers were told that the new system of PCCs wouldn't cost them any more than the authorities they replaced, but research suggests that's not the case in many parts of the country.

"When the future of the police is being discussed in the context of a necessary savings programme, discussing whether we're getting value for money from the new commissioners must be paramount."

Kent, in fairness, can stand by its funding costs. While Ann Barnes pockets £85,000 – and employs a chief of staff on £90,000 – her office, in total, costs less than the Kent Police Authority it replaced.

Yet it is one of the few positives to come out of her office, which is based in the headquarters of Kent Police in Maidstone.

Because when it comes to some dire decision-making, Mrs Barnes' office must take its fair share of responsibility.

First there was the appointment of youth commissioner Paris Brown. The fresh-faced 17-year-old from Sheerness was hired to be the conduit between the young generation and the police. After Mrs Barnes paraded her around every TV and radio station that would have them, they were caught out when the Mail on Sunday noticed Miss Brown's Twitter feed included a host of comments posted years before, which appeared to include comments about under-age drinking, homophobia and racism.

Amid considerable concerns as to how this was missed during the recruitment process, there was also the issue of the damage done to one so young at having her reputation so brutally savaged after hoisting her into the spotlight.

Turn to Page 20

WHAT DOES THE PCC HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR?

POLICE and Crime Commissioners have a number of responsibilities which they undertake on behalf of the public.

Mrs Barnes works alongside Kent's Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley. Although she is not a member of the force, Mrs Barnes sets the policing agenda, giving a strategic steer for him.

She is not able to set a day-to-day agenda for the force, or get involved in any operational issues though, with that power remaining in the hands of Kent's top cop.

One of the PCC's primary functions is to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing in local communities.

A key power for the commissioner is setting the force's budget - this has been particularly important in an age of austerity, when poor, or good management of budgets could either lead to greater, or fewer cuts to bobbies on the beat.

Another financial power which the commissioner has control over is setting the local council tax precept. They get to decide how much cash taxpayers should contribute each year - in the 2015-2016 financial year Mrs Barnes asked for the police's portion of council tax to go up by 1.99 per cent.

The PCC can also buy in services for victims - something which Mrs Barnes has worked hard to improve in Kent.

CRITICS: Swale Borough Council leader Andrew Bowles and Roger Latchford, leader of Ukip on KCC

Turn from Page 19

Once that had died down, Mrs Barnes agreed to appear in a fly-on-the-wall documentary Meet the Commissioner for Channel 4. The phrase 'car-crash' television was created for just such an outing.

Mrs Barnes was caught on camera unable to explain what her job was, and few will forget her struggle to explain the force's policing strategy by drawing the many layers of an onion.

There may have been an equal amount of footage showing her fighting for funding and meeting the public, but the damage was already done.

And while we're talking about car-crashes, she flew into the headlines again after being involved in a car crash in Dartford, which saw the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) investigate. She was cleared of any wrong-doing, but in an environment where her role was under the microscope, it generated publicity for all the wrong reasons.

So should next May's elections for a new PCC still go ahead or should the role end up on the scrap-heap?

Andrew Bowles is the leader of Swale Borough Council, and its representative on the police and crime panel, which holds the PCC to account, in Kent.

He told us: "I have to admit, my views on the role of PCC have been jaundiced by the various issues which have arisen from the current incumbent. Initially, I felt that the role would be helpful in setting clear priorities for the police, and helping allow the man of the street's views to be expressed. My experience though, is that it simply is not working.

"I don't think Ann Barnes should stand again. I think after a number of unfortunate incidents, she needs to stand aside and allow Kent Police a fresh start."

The role of the PCC replaced a previous system – set up in 1964 – of the police authority. These were a series of committees, which served to hold each force's top cop to account. They were formed from a mixture of local councillors, and non-political appointed members. Mrs Barnes served as chairman on Kent's police authority before standing for election to the role of PCC.

The problem, though, was that they were opaque panels, which were often criticised for failing to take the public's views into account. When the coalition government came to power, it announced that the old authorities lacked a high enough profile, and failed to represent the public. As a result, it would 'introduce measures to make the police more accountable through oversight by a directly elected individual, who will be subject to strict checks and balances by locally elected representatives'.

The effort has failed, however, according to many.

Roger Latchford is leader of the opposition Ukip group on Kent County Council. He explained: "I personally think we shouldn't have police and crime commissioners. With the cuts we've seen to not just the police force, but also many other public bodies across the UK, I'm not convinced that the post of PCC is one that should be getting government money.

"The funds which are allocated to the PCC would be better spent on actual bobbies on the beat, especially since many jobs have been cut and the number of officers reduced."

The office of the PCC gets annual government funding of £1.5 million. While that's a meagre 0.5 per cent of the total police budget in Kent, its cash which, says Cllr Latchford, could soften the blow of government cuts.

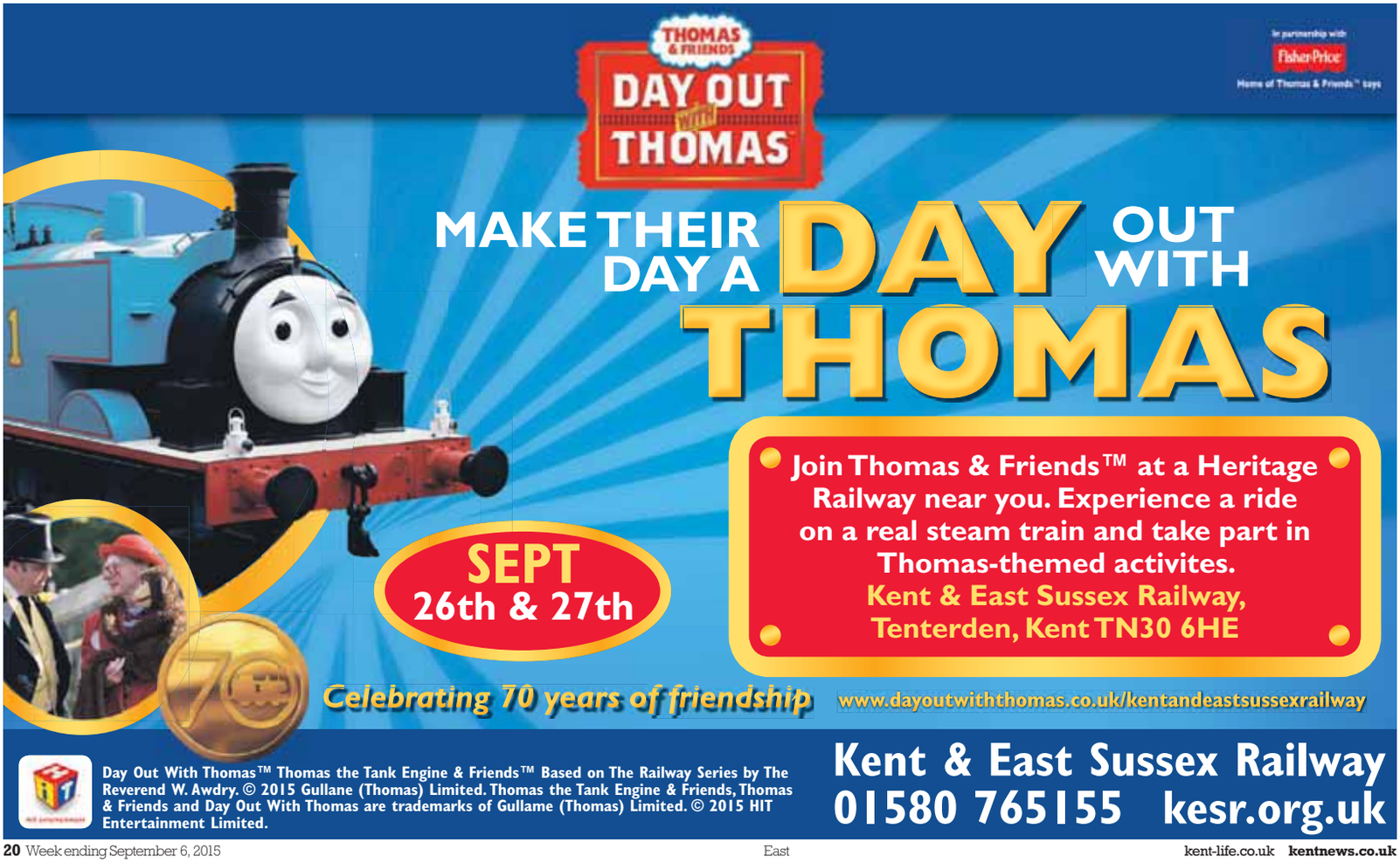
"Ann Barnes has worked extremely hard," Cllr Latchford says, "and has done her best. However if she was not replaced by another PCC when her tenure comes to an end, I for one, would support that decision."

The next elections are scheduled for May 5 - designed to coincide with local council elections, a move almost certain to see the number of votes in Kent at least more than double.

Cllr Bowles, though, questions just how many people care enough to vote in the PCC elections anyway.

He said: "There is a chance people in Kent will turn out just to get rid of Mrs Barnes. When I speak with members of the public in my area, the feeling is quite clear that Mrs Barnes has tainted the role of the commissioner. Currently the jury's out, but I would think that the elections will definitely go ahead this time around."

■ Next week: Ann Barnes has promised to defend the role of commissioner and discusses her time in office.



Army medics swim the Channel

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A TEAM of Army medics has swum across the English Channel – despite high winds and the tide forcing them to almost double the distance they travelled.

Exercise 'Serpents Swim' saw the team of eight medics from Colchester-based 16 Medical Regiment swim from Dover to Calais.

They had been waiting for the perfect conditions to make the gruelling journey across the world's busiest shipping lane.

The crossing took 17 hours and 20 minutes last Friday, with each medic swimming at least two hour-long sessions before handing over to a colleague.

High winds and the tide dragging them off route meant the team had to swim an estimated 40 miles – 18 more than the direct route over the crossing.

Lieutenant Colonel Philip McNee, commanding officer of 16 Med Regt, said: "The team was superb; everyone was up for it and no-one wanted to let their colleagues down.

"We'd all trained hard, but it was a tougher challenge than we expected with the tides and wind taking us on a long zigzag across the Channel. It was a fantastic feeling to finish but we were all asleep on the way back, there was no cigars and Champagne."

Sergeant Mike Brewer, a 30-year-old biomedical scientist from Swindon, and one of the last swimmers to get in the water, said: "I had seen people swimming for six hours and it was daunting to know how demanding it was before I got started.

"The second I jumped into the water and the cold hit I wanted to get out, but I didn't want to let the team or myself down and once I got swimming I quickly settled into a rhythm.

"It was good to be with friends when you're freezing cold and exhausted and we were all elated to finish."

SPLASH: Medics were blown off course but still completed cross-Channel swim

...BUT 80-YEAR-OLD'S WATERSKI ATTEMPT FALLS SHORT

DESPITE the training, and waiting for ideal conditions for his attempt to water-ski the English Channel, Robin Hanbury-Tenison couldn't finish the record breaking run.

The 80-year-old made the attempt last Saturday (August 29) as part of his eight grand challenges for each decade he's been alive.

He decided that a window of clear weather had opened. However, once in the Channel, he found it was tough going and decided to call time on the attempt to become the oldest person to water-ski the shipping lane.

Mr Hanbury-Tenison said: "We thought we had a hole in the weather but it wasn't as good as everybody had hoped. I got up but the conditions were what one of the people described as 'boat breaking'. I didn't get very far and realised that I wasn't going to make it. There was no way that I was going to fight those waves for an hour and a half."

He won't reattempt the challenge but is set to do a 20-mile water-ski off Rock Estuary in Cornwall.

Is the A level on the way out after college drops all classes?

Nearly 200 students left stunned as MidKent College ditches the A level, but, as **Chris Murphy** reports, it is not the first to take such a dramatic step due to funds

A LEADING education consultant has described a major college's decision to scrap all its A level courses just days before students were due to start course as "disgraceful".

MidKent College left 175 students facing a frantic last-minute dash to find alternative courses after it confirmed that it was dropping the courses due to financial concerns.

The college has campuses in Gillingham and Maidstone and has long been established as one of the county's primary further education providers.

But it says it has changed direction - stopping all A level courses and instead replacing them more vocational opportunities.

Those already on A level courses at the college will continue to be taught through to the exam.

It is not the first further education establishment to make such a move. North West College pulled the plug on the classic academic qualifications two years ago to adapt to the changing education market.

College chiefs said they regretted the move and that continued hefty government cutbacks across all services in the UK have taken their toll on many community projects, and education is suffering too.

In particular, the change in funding for A level students – so recently seen as a major revenue generator for colleges.

It said current government policy places much greater emphasis on ensuring further education colleges meet the needs of the local and regional job markets; that its new provision reflects the priorities of the local enterprise partnerships; and that it contributes to the delivery of the government's target of three million apprenticeship starts.

A spokesman told us: "All of those students affected who have been in contact with the college have found a place on an alternative course at the college, or with local schools, and providers.

"For any student still needing to contact the college we will be holding late enrolment sessions for the next two weeks. Although term has started for most local schools, they are still willing to help students still looking for a place."

Principal Simon Cook said his priority now is to minimise the impact on the new A level students.

He said: "We remain absolutely committed to making sure that every young person finds the right programme to help them progress to university or employment either with MidKent College or one of our local schools."

He had written to all those concerned, saying: "I deeply regret the impact this decision will have on your arrangements for September and starting college."

He added: "I want to reassure everyone enrolled to start an A level course here that we can still help you achieve your ambitions. We offer a very wide range of equivalent level three vocational BTEC programmes that support students seeking to go on to university, or into a particular career."

The college ran a number of course advice sessions where students could speak with staff members in all subjects to discuss alternative courses.

Almost all local secondary schools offer A levels, however, none of them offer the range of vocational programmes available at MidKent College, or run apprenticeship programmes, the college said.

But the decision has been fiercely criticised by education expert Peter Read, from Gravesend. The former headteacher said: "MidKent College cynically left 175 students in the lurch 24 hours after they received GCSE results which qualified them for A level courses at the college. All A-level courses for new students were scrapped less than two weeks before term starts, at both the Gillingham and Maidstone campuses.

"Some of the students learned of the decision only after news was published in local media and before they received letters informing them that their career plans had

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SHOCK: Students ready to enrol at MidKent College's Medway campus, above, have been forced to rethink their future after A level courses were dramatically dropped, leaving Peter Read, left, fuming. Pic: ELLIE HOSKINS

SWITCH: Focus will now be on more vocational subjects in Maidstone

been torpedoed by the college.

"According to the college, the decision was taken in order to focus more effort on apprenticeships and vocational training. The college had 'reviewed its curriculum in the face of fewer resources and recent government policy' although I am aware of no government policies that have changed in recent months to precipitate this change."

He also called into question the timing of the announced scrapping of the A levels to concentrate on vocational courses.

Mr Read said: "A perfectly reasonable decision, if made at an appropriate time, so that potential students are given fair warning and not treated disgracefully as in this case. It is called planning, and a large budget institution ought to have sorted out such an important decision long in advance of this.

"If it did, and did not make the decision public, this would be deliberate and cynical misleading of the young people concerned to try and trick them on to courses they had not applied for."

Chris Thomas, spokesman for Canterbury College, said it was finding demand for A levels increasing.

He explained: "The college has added to its range of A level programmes this year due to high demand.

"We currently have more than 250 AS and A level students, and also run a 'pathway' course that helps people gain access to A level courses. We are still accepting people for A-levels that start this month."

A spokesman for North West Kent College, in Oakfield Lane, Dartford, told us: "We stopped doing A levels about two years ago and left those to the schools while we concentrated on vocational courses.

"It is a good division of labour that suits us and the schools."

STARS: MP Damian Collins, centre, with MP Tracey Crouch and ex-England ace Phil de Freitas

Boris unbeaten as he faces his toughest test

Famous faces from cricket and politics lined-up for the latest star-studded Lashings big match

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

LONDON mayor Boris Johnson is never one to shy away from action, whether it's getting stuck on zip-wires, or walking the streets of Ramsgate surrounded by a mob of Ukip supporters.

Last weekend though, the mayor came close to biting off more than he could chew as he faced off against his foes on the cricket field when the House of Commons and Lord's XI took on the Lashings All-Stars at the Mote in Maidstone.

Lashings All-Stars, based in the county town, have long since established a reputation for attracting a stellar line-up of talent from the world of international cricket.

Not one to mince his words, Mr Johnson had, with a swagger, bragged he and his team – which included Shepway MP Damian Collins and Dartford's Gareth Johnson – would 'tonk' Lashings player – and former West Indies fast bowler – Tino Best all over the park.

Despite the mayor holding sway in London, it became clear fairly soon that he was unlikely to be able to impose his will on Mr Best.

In fact, the mayor – along with his colleagues – faced not just Mr Best, but other world beating pacemen and spinners in the form of Courtney Walsh, Phillip DeFreitas and Devon Malcolm when the two teams met on the main pitch as part of a T20 four team 'feast' which also included The Mote and West Indies under-15s.

BOJO: Mayor played well. All pics: MIKE SAVAGE

Despite a day job which keeps him desk bound for much of his time, the mayor proved handy with a bat making himself 23 not out - securing a smug look and the title of his team's star performer.

Dartford's Gareth Johnson didn't manage to emulate his Tory colleague - but did at least make double figures.

He told KoS: "I was sent in to bat against Courtney Walsh, one of the finest bowlers the West Indies have produced so obviously it was a terrifying experience.

"Overweight MPs trying to play some of the finest cricketers in the world – we were never likely to win.

"I managed to survive a few balls and add around 10 runs to the total, which wasn't bad considering we only made 81 for seven."

That total left the team trailing Lashings – who'd gone in to bat first – by 137 runs. The All-Stars had made a total of 218-1, with Adam Hollioake making 90, and Tino Best picking up 82 retired.

It didn't matter for Mr Johnson though, as he told KoS he was thrilled to have taken part in the match.

He said: "I've always felt that West Indies cricket, like Brazil with football, is the best played around the world. It was an absolutely incredible experience playing Lashings, and one which I found amazing."

The remainder of the tournament saw the Mote team beat the West Indies under 15s, before progressing to take on the All-Stars squad. Lashings – perhaps unsurprisingly – went on to win, making 157-6 on a difficult wicket. The Mote fell 10 runs short at stumps.

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ART: Tracey Emin attended the event in Margate. All pictures by: Anthony Devlin/PA Wire.

CROWDS: Thousands of people turned up to enjoy the event at the Turner Contemporary.

CREATIVE: Artist Sir Peter Blake - best known for designing Beatles' Sgt Pepper artwork.

GREETING: Vic Reeves met members of the public at the event.

ARTIST: Polly Morgan, best known for her taxidermy artistic works was one of the many big names to attend the event last Sunday.

Artistic legends star at boot fair

A unique event which sees prominent artists selling their work from a number of vintage Vauxhalls came to Margate, writes **Molly Kersey**

A NUMBER of big names in the art world made their way to Margate on Sunday for a creative event with a twist.

The Vauxhall Art Car Boot Sale, which aims to blend elements of an art fair and a classic car boot sale, took place outside the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate.

Artists including Tracey Emin, who grew up in the seaside town, Polly Morgan, Sir Peter Blake, Gavin Turk, Rachel Howard and Vic Reeves, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, attended - selling more affordable editions of their work to the public.

Ms Emin signed a number of prints and artwares throughout the day and Sir Peter signed dedications on small drawings that he had created for people on the spot.

Visitors were also able to create their own artwork at Ian Dawson's Copy Shop, which offered custom screen printing during the day.

The unique event gave people the opportunity to interact with the artists, who sold their array of artworks directly from the back of a number of vintage Vauxhalls.

A selection of cars including the PA Velox, Viva HA, Royale, Firenza and Ventora were given to artists to use for their pitches.

People flocked to the county from far and wide to enjoy the day, with some 3,000 people making their way to the artistic event.

The Vauxhall Art Car Boot Fair was founded by curator Karen Ashton, who came up with the idea back in 2004 with the aim of 're-introducing fun and frivolity into a thriving but increasingly commercial art scene'.

The first event took place in Brick Lane, London.

It has since appeared in Folkestone, tying in with the Folkestone Triennial - which invites artists to use the town as their canvas and create pieces which will remain once they have left.

"We have kept it fresh by getting new people and having new ideas," the organiser said. "It hasn't massively changed. The ethos has stayed the same."

This year's event had a canine theme, with a number of the artists incorporating dogs into their work in some way and a dog show taking place along the promenade.

There was also the opportunity for pets to take part in a 'dog in boot' photo shoot, which took place in a vintage Vauxhall Viva .

Visitors were also able to enjoy a line-up of performances on the Cabaret Futura stage from groups including The Band of Holy Joy.

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BRIGHT: Rainbows and sunshine in Margate last weekend

Pride parade proves a colourful hit

Loss of a sponsor, and a cruel anonymous leaflet, failed to spoil the Kent Pride event for the LGBT and wider community as it took to the streets of the seaside town amid a mass of colour and sound

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LAST minute blow in the form of the withdrawal of a major sponsor – and a leaflet campaign calling for people to boycott the event – failed to dampen enthusiasm at last weekend's Pride march in Margate.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community across the county teamed up to parade through the seaside town in a bid to show unity and pride in their lifestyles.

And organisers have hailed it a great success – despite some events having to be shelved after local firms, which had promised to support the event, let them down.

Kent Pride organiser Vikki Childs said: "These things are so expensive to put on. We are so happy we did get a couple of sponsors but were badly let down by some businesses.

"We will be taking a week off to recover and I have just go married, but in a week or so, we will be back to start the organisation for next year's event.

"I am so happy with the way this one turned out. It was against all the odds that anything was put on. A lack of funds meant some key moments had to be cancelled. Imagine how brilliant it would have been had we been able to run the full list of events we have planned.

"It was great having so many people turn out to support us. We are really inclusive and everyone is welcome – no one is excluded."

However, it was clouded in controversy in the days leading up to the event, when a leaflet was distributed to homes in Margate saying 'save yourself and your children from homosexuality'.

It is not yet known who sent the leaflet.

Ms Childs added: "It had no detrimental effect on us at all. In fact, it probably just gave us more positive publicity."

Among those attending, was veteran campaigner Peter Tatchell.

He told the crowd that one by one anti-gay laws have been swept aside over the years.

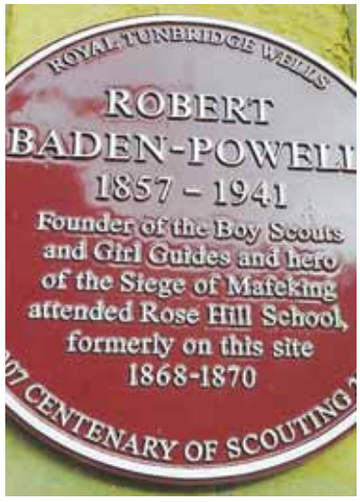
He added: "We won same-sex marriage, but still today more than half of all LGBT kids are still bullied at school and that is really terrible."

And another organiser for the non-profit Kent Pride organisation, Tony Bee had a message for the population, saying: "Gays are everywhere – get over it."

Ms Childs added: "There is no reason why this year's success, despite the efforts of some to put people off, will spark even wider interest in our lifestyle next year."

Baden-Powell's time spent in a Kentish village

Molly Kersey speaks to a writer who has compiled a book about the well-known Lord Baden-Powell's family, and the time that they spent living in Speldhurst and surrounding areas in the county



FOUNDER of the Scout Movement and a prestigious member of the British Army, there are not many people who are unfamiliar with Robert Baden-Powell's name.

The list of his achievements is extensive.

He successfully defended the town of Mafeking during the Boer War, wrote a number of books and founded the Boy Scouts in 1908 - a movement which has snowballed into a youth organisation with some 28 million members around the world.

And the well-known figure actually had many links to Kent, spending some of his formative years in the county with his family.

Writer Steven Harris has compiled a book, Baden-Powell & Company, which delves into the background of the influential man and his relatives – many of whom lived in Speldhurst, a picturesque village near Tunbridge Wells.

"He had grandparents who lived in Speldhurst and he had cousins and relatives there, so although his parents lived in London he spent a lot of his time in Speldhurst for school holidays and that sort of thing," Mr Harris explained.

"His grandfather was actually the High Sheriff of Kent when he was alive."

Baden Powell and his wife Hester were Lord Baden-Powell's paternal grandparents, and were happily settled in Speldhurst, where they lived as committed Christians and were involved with the nearby St Mary's Church.

"His grandfather and other relations were church wardens and very closely connected to the church," said Mr Harris.

"Quite a few members of the Baden-Powell family are buried there."

Mr Harris writes in the book that the family seem to have been leading figures in the community, bound up with life in Langton Green, Speldhurst and the surrounding villages.

His grandfather had a number of local estates and business interests, and enjoyed a comfortable family life in the countryside.

Although Lord Baden-Powell did not get to know his grandparents – they died before he was born – he still regularly visited the family members who had inherited the Speldhurst home.

In fact, he was educated in nearby Tunbridge Wells for a number of years, at a school which his father, Professor Baden Powell, attended.

The book details how 'on more than one occasion he was quick to point out that Rose Hill School was where he first honed his scouting and backwoodmanship training before he went to Charterhouse School in 1870.'

Mr Harris explained: "Lord Baden-Powell went to Rose Hill School, he was a pupil there and today they have a school house called Baden-Powell.

"I have a feeling that on his birthday each year the children get a free ice cream to celebrate.

"The school was a boarding school, but during weekends and the holidays he went to the home of his grandparents."

Lord Baden-Powell would cut through Rusthall and Shadwell Woods and surrounding fields, land which was owned by the family at the time, when he made his way to visit his relatives at the Manor House in Speldhurst.

He had a sibling who also visited the area too.

"He had a brother who was older than him called Augustus and he died when he was 13 of tuberculosis," explained Mr Harris.

"He convalesced with his cousins in Speldhurst, he was sent there for the fresh air. He is buried in Saint Mary's Church."

Augustus died in 1863, just three years after his father. His gravestone in the church yard features an enigmatic inscription at the centre.

Lord Baden-Powell was six-years-old at the time of his brother's death, and the pair had been close despite the difference in their ages.

A sketch that the young boy drew of the rear view of the Manor House in Speldhurst has been included in the book, as well as a drawing of the George and Dragon public house in Tunbridge Wells, which is said to be the second oldest pub in the country.

Information about letters which he had written to his family has also been included - one of which described the unpleasant taste of his regular doses of a medicine called quinine, and his concern's for the health of his father - who died in 1860.

In 1879, Lord Baden-Powell pursued his Army career, sailing out to India on the troopship Serapis, which saw his fame grow and his career become renowned after his actions during the Mafeking siege and for being the youngest in the Army to be promoted to Major-General.

During his successful and extensive career, he still maintained his links with the county.

"He was given the Freedom of Canterbury and he visited Canterbury in around 1930.

"He had a brother called Baden who lived in Riverhead in Sevenoaks," said Mr Harris.

Sevenoaks has a Baden-Powell road to mark the connection to the family.

Mr Harris has written about Lord Baden-Powell's life a number of times before, with his other books including Baden-Powell's Footprint Across Britain and A Quirky Biography of Baden-Powell and his Boy Scouts.

He decided to branch out and explore his family background for his new title.

"I have written other books on Baden-Powell and there has been quite a lot written on him. I wondered what made him the person he was and what came before him," he explained.

"There has never been a book on his grandparents and his relatives, so the more I started to dig the more I found out, and I thought he had a very interesting back story."

He paid a visit to the places in the county that are mentioned in the book while he was writing.

"I did quite a lot of research and had help from local people," he said.

Baden-Powell & Company is published by Lewarne Publishing and costs £16.99. For more details, visit www.lewarnepublishing.co.uk.

LEGACY: Lord Baden-Powell, top right, attended Rose Hill School, top left. Speldhurst 1st Scouts, circa 1920, benefited from the movement he created in 1908. Baden-Powell & Company, below, explores his connections to Kent

RESEARCH: The book delves into Lord Baden-Powell's family and their home in Speldhurst, near Tunbridge Wells

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MIXED: Ice cream sales soared in the county despite the clouds gathering over a number of our top attractions as August saw rain hit as the schools went on holiday

Rollercoaster of a summer for our visitor trade

June and July proved hot and profitable... but has a damp August taken shine off our tourism push?

TOURISM chiefs started counting up their summertime takings this week amid fears a miserable August will have put paid to hopes of a vintage summer.

Traditionally the busiest time of year for the visitor industry, the final weekend of the school holidays for many proved something of a wash-out as the summer bank holiday saw heavy rain showers sweep across the county.

Visit Kent, the county's tourism champion, said figures for both July and August had not yet been calculated - and say they don't expect to be able to paint a full picture of 2015 for at least another couple of months.

But the feeling is that although the season saw a steady flow of visitors, the weather did not help - especially during August when the schools were out - and Operation Stack also presented problems.

A spokesman for English Heritage, which manages a number of popular historic sites, said it had mixed fortunes. They said: "At Dover Castle, we did see a drop in visitors during the recent extended implementation of Operation Stack as well as a significant number of cancellations from pre-booked school groups.

"In relation to the weather, there have certainly been some unseasonably wet days during the school holidays, but overall across our Kent attractions, there is lots to see and do under cover."

A spokesman for Margate's Dreamland, which re-opened earlier this year, told KoS the weather may have had its ups and downs, but it has been a triumphant return.

They explained: "We have actually had a fantastic season. As you know, the weather has been constantly changing its mind, hence our guests will go into our amusement arcade and roller disco when it has been raining and once it clears up and the sun comes back out, they flood back out into the park once more.

"With the exception of bank holiday Monday, where the weather was really bad, we have had a great end to the summer."

The park had been open every day during the summer, but as of this week reverts to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only, before opening all week again for the October half-term.

The neighbouring Turner Contemporary said it has also seen crowds flock in.

A spokesman said "We have had more than 170,000 visits to our summer exhibition Grayson Perry: Provincial Punk to date.

"Last week we received our highest visit figures in a week for the year so far, with over 19,000 visits, which is a 70 per cent increase on the same week last year. Turner Contemporary's bank holiday weekend was also a great success with events taking place in and around the gallery." (See page 27 for details of the art boot sale it held last weekend).

It's not been a bad season either for those companies which rely on day-trippers and holidaymakers.

Alistair Jessel is boss at Taywell Ice Cream based in Beltring, Paddock Wood. He said: "Kent has been an oasis in the weather map over the summer holidays.

"We have been doing very well over the past year with a 30 per cent rise in business.

"I know a lot of others in this business did have a tough year, but they are north of Watford. We were quite lucky in the south east – we had some rainy days but overall, it has been quite nice."

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Arrival date:	SINGLE	DOUBLE
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Arrival date:	NTS	SGL	DBL
13th Sep 15	6	£480	£785
23rd Sep 15	4	£425	£650
12th May 16	4	£425	£650
10th Jun 16	7	£480	£785

Arrival date:	NTS	SGL	DBL
15th July 16	4	£425	£645
8th Aug 16	5	£510	£845
6th Sep 16	4	£480	£795

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Women Seeking

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FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117**

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

LAUREN, 32yrs, recently divorced, own home and 2 kids seeks single dads or older chap. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4127590**

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

KAREN, 51yrs, never been married and does not want to be! Just wants a nice kind hearted chap for dates, texts etc. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4032409**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079**

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077**

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's; petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477**

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735**

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513**

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399**

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561**

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533**

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 oer message received. mydate24

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827**

ALAN, 49yrs, kind chap with own building business, been broken hearted and seeks kind caring lady, looks unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4105813**

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

69YR old male ,professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531**

RICHARD 63, N/S, clean-shaven, likes meals out, days out, classic cars, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

JOHN young 50, tall, slim, hard-working, seeking business/professional female for discreet meetings, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418461**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855**

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905**

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

JONATHAN good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197**

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTM lady 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173**

COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTM similar female. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687**

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421**

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845**

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265**

COMPANION sought, 50-60's by slim, young looking 65yr old man for cinema, music, eating, drinking, talking and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418257**

JOHN nice looking, brown curly hair, gentle, understanding, seeks tall, slim lady for daytime no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418207**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

MALE 71, Tidy, OHAC WLTM Lady late 60s early70s for easy friendship. Likes animals. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757205**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023**

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTM a mature lady 55 to 65 for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4760779**

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212**

ANDY 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821**

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

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MALE likes CD, seeking similar male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418513**

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713**

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PUPPETS: Puppeteer Nigel Plaskitt with Monkey – another of his creations.

Attention-grabbing puppets in the hit musical Avenue Q

The show was revolutionary and is loved by audiences, writes Molly Kersey...

THE idea of a show which features puppets and puppeteers working side by side, without any attempt at hiding it or creating ventriloquy, was pretty revolutionary.

But hit musical Avenue Q does just that. Following West End and Broadway success, the show will be bringing a number of fuzzy friends to the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, as part of its UK tour.

The show follows the adventures of bright-eyed college graduate Princeton - who makes his way to New York with big dreams, but a small bank account.

He soon discovers that Avenue Q is the only neighbourhood in his price range, and finds himself moving in with some quirky characters, including out of work comedian Brian and his therapist fiancee Christmas Eve and a kind-hearted slacker called Nicky, who lives with Republican Rod.

The puppet cast are brought to life by an ensemble cast of 11 performers.

The show features puppeteering as it has rarely been seen before in mainstream theatre.

And what surprised creators was how audiences have focused on the puppets, rather than the puppeteers, during the performances.

And it is no mean feat to control the puppets.

"It's actually a really difficult thing to do," explained Nigel Plaskitt, who has been operating puppets and training puppeteers for some 40 years and worked on various productions of Avenue Q.

"You've got to play the character, create his or her voice, animate this creature on your arm and become so expert at the lip-synching that you don't even have to think about it. There is a lot going on," he added.

"In some ways it's a good idea not to have had any prior experience; then you have no preconceptions. You come to it with a clean slate."

It was one of the Sesame Street team in New York who suggested that Mr Plaskitt work on the London transfer of Avenue Q, produced by Cameron Mackintosh.

"This wasn't a show attacking Sesame Street, or even mocking it; rather, it showed how much affection people had for it," he said.

He has been working alongside puppet-maker Paul Jomain and has tried to make the Avenue Q puppets as user-friendly as possible.

"Operating puppets can be very tiring. Paul's puppets are very light to hold but even so it can be quite uncomfortable being in the same position for 20 minutes at a time," said Mr Plaskitt.

"You have to train your muscles to stretch into the positions they need to hold. It's a matter of building up your strength and not going too fast. We've had to bring the physios in a few times over the years."

The current tour requires 34 hand-stitched puppets - and making and maintaining the puppets has become a full-time job for Mr Jomain.

"The clothes for Lucy and Kate Monster are made by hand, but the boys can be fitted out in the high street. Over the years, I've developed an eye for what works and what doesn't," he said.

Avenue Q will be at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from September 8 to 12. To book, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

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Celebration of local food and drink at Canterbury festival

by Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

CELEBRATING local cuisine and culture, the Canterbury Food and Drink Festival will be making its way to the Dane John Gardens later this month.

The free event aims to provide something for people of all ages to enjoy, with music, a variety of food and drink and a children's area on offer for visitors.

There will also be cocktails, craft beers and vinyl-only DJs available.

A selection of music will be played over the course of the weekend, with the successful Buskers' Stage making a return and offering tunes from a selection of Canterbury's street musicians.

A number of artists will be taking to the Dane John Bandstand to perform over course of the weekend.

Local favourites Brendan Power and Joe Jones will be performing on the Friday that the festival begins (September 25).

"Brendan is an internationally renowned classy harmonica player, sings with a raw bluesy-style and is an accomplished beat-boxer, while Joe is a versatile guitarist and singer," said a spokesman for the festival.

Vintage keyboard and drums duo The Tunes will be playing a mixture of classic songs from 1910 through to 2010, and folk singer and songwriter Thomas Ashby is also set to make an appearance.

On Saturday, groups Rudy Warman and the Heavy Weather and Baxter, who have a mix of original songs and covers, will be taking to the stage.

Kent Rock Choir will also be bringing some a cappella songs to Canterbury, and performing some modern classics on the Dane John bandstand.

Singer and songwriter Richard Navarro will be performing on Sunday. Closing the festival that day will be Gentlemen of the Few, who were finalists at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

The festival runs over the weekend of Friday, September 25, to Sunday, September 27.

For more information about all that is on offer, visit www.canterbury.co.uk/canterburyfoodfestival.

Alternatively, visit the festival's Twitter page at www.twitter.com/CTFoodFest.

FESTIVAL: The event is aiming to be family-friendly.

Ballet show at Woodville

VIENNA Festival Ballet will be performing Coppelia at the Woodville, Gravesend, on October 1 at 7.30pm.

To book, call the box office on 08442 439480 or visit www.viennafestivalballet.com.

Off to Neverland in panto

PANTOMIME Peter Pan will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, from December 4 to January 3, 2016.

Tickets for the family show are £12 and there are evening and daytime performances.

For more details, you can visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

Blues singer in Dartford

SINGER and songwriter Sunjay Brayne will be performing at the Dartford Folk Club on September 15 at 8.30pm.

For details, or to book, you can visit www.dartfordfolk.org.uk or call 01322 222553.

Katherine Ryan returns

STAR of Live at the Apollo and QI, Katherine Ryan, will be bringing her new show Kathburn to the Folkestone Quarterhouse.

The performance will be taking place on October 2 at 8pm and it is suitable for people aged 14 and over.

For tickets, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Homes & Gardens

Deal with rot

Tips on how to handle both wet and dry rot at home

See page 41

Get creative this season

See inside

EVEN though the summer months are drawing to a close and we are edging into autumn, there are still a number of ways to get creative and brighten up your home and garden.

See inside our homes and gardens feature for a number of practical tips on how to make the most of the changing seasons - making both the inside and outside of your home look the best that it can.

Maybe you have some excess fruit and vegetables leftover from the summer season and need some tips on how to store them so they don't go to waste?

Or perhaps you want to keep the feeling of sunnier climes in the home with some summer-themed decorations?

Whatever you are looking for, we are on hand to offer advice.

Storing surplus

You can freeze your spare fruit and veg to make it last longer

See page 39

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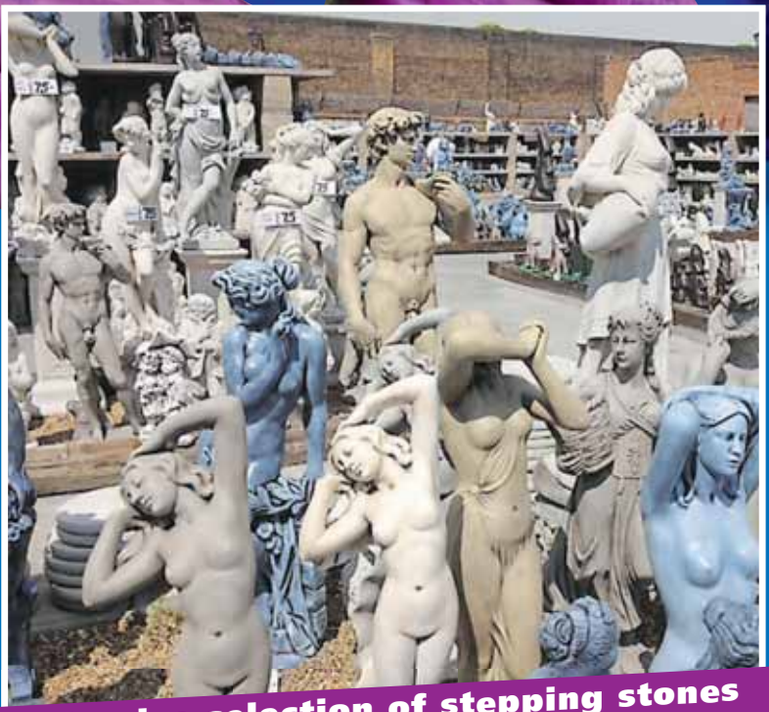

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Best way to store your surplus

There are steps you can take to freeze your fruit and vegetables, helping them last long into winter

IF you are now inundated with ripe tomatoes, juicy green beans, berries and herbs, don't leave them to go stringy or mouldy because the freezer can go a long way to making your crops last well into winter.

Blanching newly-picked vegetables before freezing them is a great way to avoid waste. It stops enzyme actions which can cause loss of flavour, colour and texture. Blanching cleans the surface of dirt and organisms, brightens the colour and helps retain vitamins.

Just plunge vegetables in boiling water for a minute or two and then drain in a colander and transfer them into ice cold water to stop the cooking process, then let them cool and dry them off, place them in freezer bags and store in your freezer until you need them.

You can do this with a range of vegetables, from runner and French beans to sweetcorn, broccoli, carrots and peas, although blanching times may vary.

Of course, we all know the texture of tomatoes changes as soon as you freeze them, but they will still be good for pasta sauces and stews in the months to come.

Strawberries, too, change their character when they've been frozen, but you can make some delicious desserts, jams and sauces using frozen berries. Blackberries, which cost a fortune in the shops but grow wildly among hedgerows in the countryside, can be picked and frozen. Instead of squishing the newly-picked fruit in a freezer bag, place the berries flat on a tray and put them in the freezer, then once they're frozen they can be transferred intact to bags and placed back in the freezer.

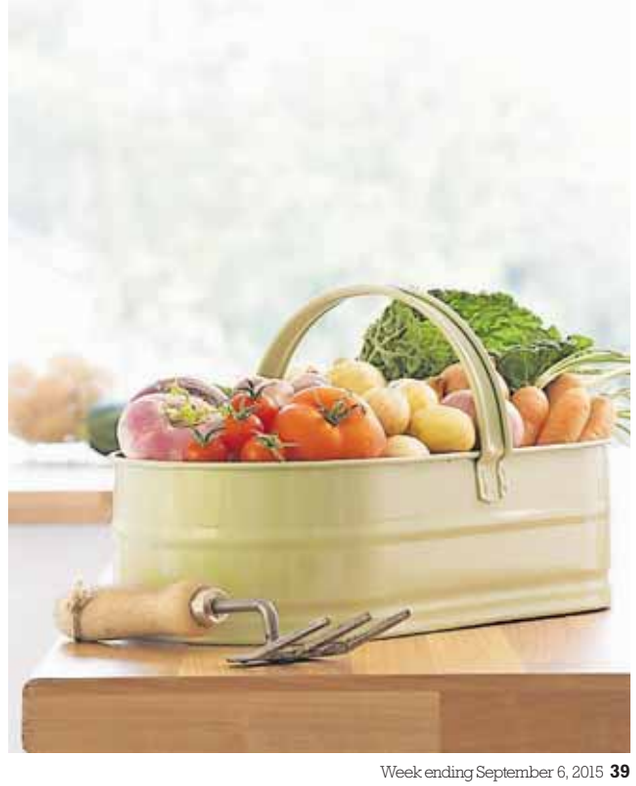
Herbs, too, can be preserved to add to soups, casseroles and sauces long after you've harvested them. Just place a small amount of the herbs into ice cube trays and cover them with water. Then, when you want them you can just take out one or two cubes to add to your dish.

Some herbs, such as parsley, can be frozen as whole bunches and kept in bags in the freezer. When you want them, just take a handful from the bunch and crumble them into your dish. If you like flavoured oil to go with your balsamic vinegar, use sprigs of rosemary, or whole chillis and other robust herbs to add to your bottle of olive oil, leaving it for the flavour to infuse.

End-of-season tomatoes can be 'sun-dried' in the oven, putting them on a tray at the very lowest setting and leaving them for a couple of hours with the oven door just ajar.

If you're running out of freezer space and have enough jam and chutney to keep you going until the next millennium, you may just have to find inventive ways to use up your produce. Juicing fruit and veg is a good way of using surplus, although juices will have to be drunk immediately before they oxidise, start changing colour, lose nutrients and look much less appetising.

And remember, only freeze the best of what you grow. If your green beans have gone stringy, they are still going to be stringy when you get them out of the freezer in a month's time.



Go to a woodland wonderland

Carol Klein speaks about her love for the woodland and what you can grow in your own garden...

EVERYONE has their favourite wild place and for BBC Gardeners' World presenter Carol Klein, that place is the woodland.

"I love trees, but it is the plants that grow under them, the woodlanders, that really seduce me. They may be little flowers, but they have giant charisma," she writes in her book, Making A Garden: Successful Gardening By Nature's Rules.

"Woodlands are magical and they are nearly always intimate. It's all about what's behind the next tree and what's at your feet and I love it when the canopy fills in overhead."

Few of us may be lucky enough to have a woodland area in our garden, but it's amazing what we can grow in our own gardens where shadows are cast if we look at how Mother Nature deals with similar circumstances, she says.

"Even if you just have a tree in your garden, the conditions under that tree are going to be similar to those that you find in a woodland," she explains. "It's worth trying to emulate it and to go with the flow."

Woodland plants shouldn't be overfed - just add leaf mould to the ground and don't try to improve the soil greatly, she advises.

"When you are planting things, just add compost, don't add lots of bonemeal. Natural rules apply. And if you've inherited a garden, be careful when you prod around because lots of woodlanders are dormant until the spring. They tend to be Cinderella plants, coming up and then going back to sleep again."

Snowdrops are Carol's favourite Cinderella plants. "Everybody can grow them. They will grow best if they are reasonably damp, not too dry, and they love shade."

She recommends Galanthus nivalis 'S. Arnott', which has a powerful scent, along with wood anemones, which you can grow well in the shady garden, and they are great fun to increase and colonise.

"The native ones are lovely and there are pale blue ones including Anemone nemorosa 'Allenii' which has pale blue-grey flowers. I love the way they follow the sun. They'll hang their heads on a cloudy day, but as soon as there's a lot of sunshine, the flowers open wide and follow the path of the sun."

Once spring is over and the Cinderella plants have disappeared, don't do much tidying up, she advises. Snowdrops may look untidy, but you have to let all the goodness go back into the bulbs.

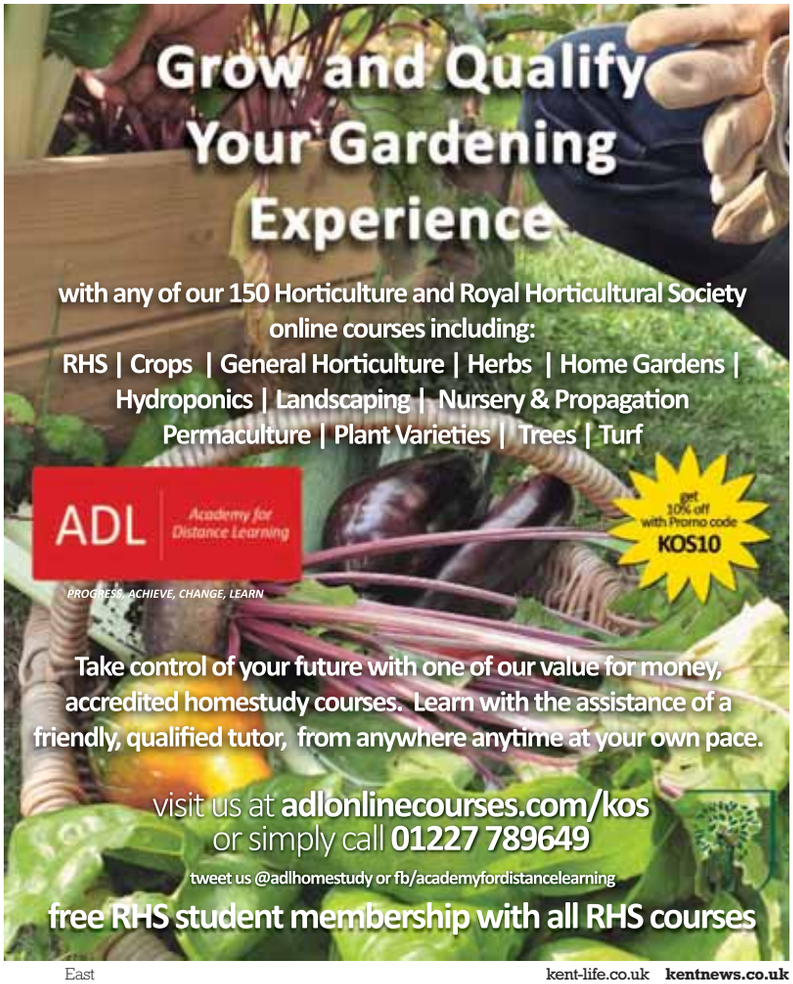
"You should keep on top of weeds, but a lot of woodlanders are colonisers anyway. We don't get vast invasions of weeds because there isn't enough light."

Trees are important. If you don't have a huge amount of space, small trees include any of the flowering cherries, which also have autumn colour, and crab apples, which are a magnet for wildlife. "If I had light, sandy soil I'd probably plant a rowan or two. Birch, whose vernacular name is 'Lady of the Woods', gives you this lovely dappled light, but it's better on a lighter acid soil than it is on heavy clay."

She is adamant about following in Mother Nature's footsteps.

"When we are not sure about something, if we look at what Nature does - how she behaves and what she decrees - and we try to emulate her, we are well on the way to success."

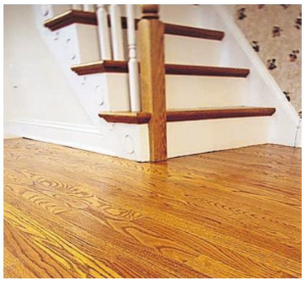
Making a Garden by Carol Klein is published by Mitchell Beazley, priced £25.



Five tips to tackle wood rot in home

Here is how to deal with wet rot and dry rot in the home

1. There are two types of rot - wet and dry. Caused by a type of fungi, wet rot is the most common kind of rot. The fungus takes hold in damp, wet wood, but remains confined there, so it's usually straightforward to deal with. Affected wood feels spongy and soft and will usually crumble when you press on it.
2. Wet rot often occurs in timber that's routinely exposed to moisture, such as the outside of wooden windows and doors, especially if the paint or varnish has flaked or cracked. The first thing to do is stop water coming into contact with your wood.
3. Treating wet rot isn't difficult. The wood's soft so you can easily remove the worst of it. Use a wood-hardening liquid, such as Ronseal High Performance Wet Rot Wood Hardener - £7 for 250ml at B&Q - to harden the remaining wood, then fill on top, building the filler up in layers if necessary. If the rot's widespread, it may be easier to remove all of it and splice in a new piece of wood - or get a carpenter to.



4. Dry rot is also caused by a fungus - serpula lacrymans - but one that's far more destructive. Dry rot is more likely to be hidden. It thrives in moist, poorly ventilated spaces, such as under wooden stairs and floorboards, making it hard to spot. Another problem is that the spores travel fast, so the whole structure of a building - both the walls and timber - can be infected in a relatively short space of time. The signs to look out for are wood cracking in a cuboidal way, a musty odour and mushroom-like growths. The growths can be different colours - they're often whitish grey and when they're most dangerous, orangey-ochre, with spores resembling brick dust.
5. To treat dry rot, you need to solve the cause of the damp. All the affected wood, and wood on either side, must be removed, but doing so can spread the spores, so the remaining timber must be treated. Any structural woodwork will usually need to be replaced. This isn't a simple DIY job and because it's so important to eliminate the fungus completely, is best left to the professionals.

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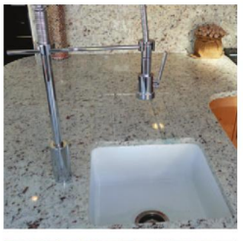

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A bit of all bright in the home

A few simple tweaks can help you to relive the warmer months of summer as the weather worsens

SOON, summer's final sunset will have been and gone - and yes, the warmer months always seem to slip away too fast.

But while the weather rules outside, indoors at least, with a few simple tweaks, it's easy to conjure rooms where the sun shines on.

Follow these expert tips for keeping forecasts bright on the home front...

Heady scents: Scents like cut grass, mimosa or even lemon groves can instantly bring summer days to mind, even if the weather outside isn't co-operating. "Our home fragrance collection helps the home to feel fresh and light, making summer last that little bit longer. Scent is all about triggering memories and creating atmosphere, and our Happiness Candle, by Jenny Packham, includes a cut grass note as well as mimosa, white neroli and lemon," says Nicola Elliot, founder of Neom, who specialise in home and personal fragrance. Jenny Packham for Neom Happiness Candle in luxury size, 50hrs is £80 at www.neomorganics.com.

Weather watch: Why waste time looking up at the sky trying to work out if the weather's going to change, when you can simply glance at the wall indoors? Bramwell Brown's weather clock has a barometer tucked inside, and a scene on the

front of the clock - depicting sunshine, showers or storms - changes accordingly. "We British are passionate about observing and commenting on our weather and we thought this was the perfect answer for those who love to weather-watch and can be prepared for any change," says Rob Leigh-Bramwell, co-founder of the innovative company which is reinventing classic timepieces. This is our update on the traditional barometer, and we thought it could make it fun – even if it does warn of unwelcome showers on the horizon." Weather Clocks, available in black, blue, grey, copper and chrome frames, start from £275 at www.bramwellbrown.com.

Fabric facelift: Bold colours and cheery designs on cotton fabric can be an easy way to give a room a lift – use for curtains, a tablecloth or new cushion covers. The Joy collection from JAB Anstoetz, in a bright palette of teals, fuchsias and sunshine yellows, is evocative of sun-bleached settings. There are 17 designs, including Villabate, a bold retro-inspired graphic, and Delia with all-over blossoms, and prices start from £56.30 a metre at www.jab-uk.co.uk.

Sky high: Perfect blue skies and fluffy white clouds could be an antidote to unwelcome showery, stormy weather. Designers Guild's new Cielo Sky wallpaper, £213 per 12m roll, depicts a dreamy skyscape. Visit www.designersguild.com

Perk up patio pots for autumn

Tips to help keep your garden colourful as the summer season draws to a close and autumn edges in

AS summer draws to a close and plants in pots start looking tired, it's time to give your containers a fresh new look for autumn and winter.

As well as making new plantings, consider brightening up existing containers. Give wooden troughs and windowboxes a good sand before repainting them in whatever colour takes your fancy, but just make sure it complements the area rather than standing out like a sore thumb.

Retro lovers may like to recycle items like food cans and tins, colanders, old metal buckets or bread tins, old wooden crates or even brightly coloured plastic trugs - with drainage holes in the bottom - to use as containers.

If you only want to replace certain plants which have gone over, dig them out carefully with a hand fork and then replace the old compost with fresh, preferably the type which contains slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining gel. Fill in the gaps with temporary colourful autumn plants such as autumn cyclamen, pansies and violas, combined with dwarf marguerites and berried winter cherries.

Alternatively, once your summer annuals in pots are truly spent, plant up a cool mix of autumn stunners, combining flowers and fruits with ivies and other hardy foliage plants. Include colourful ornamental kales and cabbages, heucheras and cape heath and, when the weather really cools down, shelter displays as much as possible to keep them frost-free.

Chrysanthemums, which went out of fashion for years as they have a reputation for being time-consuming and needing tlc in the greenhouse, have improved. There are many varieties which come into their own in the autumn, producing masses of flowers from August until November, including C. 'Mei-kyo', a pink variety.

Hopefully the hardy pansies and violas should last right through autumn until the beginning of winter. All this should be complemented with eye-catching evergreen foliage plants as well as spring-flowering hardy primroses, polyanthus and winter-flowering heathers.

If you're planting up containers in autumn, don't forget to add some bulbs which will give you colour from late winter through to spring. The bulbous Reticulata irises flower in late winter and early spring and, being mainly blue, combine effectively with white and yellow Crocus chrysanthus cultivars.

Dwarf narcissi such as 'February Gold' and 'Tete a Tete', also brighten up spring planters, as do snowdrops and grape hyacinth, while tulips will carry the flowering season into late spring. Pint-sized blue Scilla siberica can be used to fill in around the base of deciduous pot-grown shrubs but also make good plant partners for dwarf, early flowering daffodils and Wanda hybrid primroses.

Cool planting schemes might feature purple, pink and silver, combining ornamental cabbages with white cyclamen, purple-leaved heucheras such as H 'Cajun Fire' or 'Shanghai' and silver foliage plants such as Cineraria 'Silver Dust'.

Ornamental grasses such as carex and festuca can also be added to drape over the edge of containers to add both colour, texture and movement.

The end of summer doesn't have to signal the end of colour on the patio. With a little imagination, you can be enjoying your containers well into autumn and beyond.

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Magic pantomime this year

FAMILY pantomime Aladdin will be at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from November 27 to January 3 at various times.

To book, call the box office on 0844 8717 620 or visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

Moving tale told on stage

MOVING tale Blood Brothers will be performed at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, from September 14 to 26.

There will be matinee performances at 2.30pm and evening performances at 7.30pm.

For more details, or to book, you can visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Children's tale adapted

PRODUCTION I Believe In Unicorns, by children's author Michael Morpurgo, will be at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on September 30.

To book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Date for open air concert

THE 2016 open air classical concert at Leeds Castle will be taking place on July 9.

Tickets for the event are on sale now and those booking early can benefit from an 'early bird' discount on seated and picnic-style tickets.

For more information, visit www.leedscastleconcert.co.uk.

An Inspector Calls at the Orchard Theatre

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

STEPHEN Daldry's production of JB Priestley's thriller An Inspector Calls will be opening at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, before going on a national tour.

Written at the end of the Second World War and set before the First World War, the play begins when the mysterious Inspector Goole calls unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home.

Their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman - whom each of them in turn has exploited in some way.

His startling revelations not only shatter the foundations of their lives but challenge the audience to examine their own consciences too.

Mr Daldry's production unites the 1912 setting with the time it was written in 1945, transferring the play to a cobblestone war-torn wasteland, where the Edwardian Birling family home looms precariously, suspended on stilts.

The cast includes Liam Brennan, who will take on the role of Inspector Goole, Caroline Wildi, who will play Mrs Birling and Matthew Douglas as Gerald Croft.

The tour marks 70 years since An Inspector Calls premiered in 1945.

Speaking about the play and the role he will be taking on, Mr Brennan explained: "There are surprises. Although it keeps to the original story this version is fresh and I think it can get under your skin and is very exciting."

"I'm visiting the house as a policeman and I turn everyone's life upside down on the questioning about the girl and what impact they had on her life."

He added: "The play tells you if you treat people badly it will be presumptuous to think there will be no repercussions."

The show will be running at the Orchard Theatre from September 10 to 19.

For more details or to book, you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

QUESTIONING: The Birling family are investigated.

SHATTERED: The character's lives are shaken by revelations.

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Quinn of cakes preparing to release first book

The former Joules designer speaks about winning the Bake Off crown and her plans for the future...

"THERE'S only so long you can talk, in everyday life, about how much cinnamon you like in your buns before someone's like, 'OK, enough'," says Frances Quinn, with a laugh.

The former Joules designer is recalling the joy of spending a summer in the Great British Bake Off tent, nattering with fellow bakers who were as obsessed with ingredients as she is.

Despite weekly digs from judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry for going all out on style, sometimes at the expense of substance, Ms Quinn claimed the Bake Off crown - in 2013, and since then has created a slew of tasty public masterpieces - including piano shortbread for Jools Holland, a giant Club biscuit surrounded with sweet Bombay mix for indie band Bombay Bicycle Club, and even a cheesecake inspired by Matisse.

Now, finally, the 33-year-old is releasing her first book, aptly named Quintessential Baking and packed full of cakes and sweet treats.

"I suppose the book is like my baking: that mix of baking and design, so the ingredients are as important as the ideas," she says.

Ms Quinn was baking by age five. It wasn't until she began working at Joules as a children's wear designer, that making cakes for friends turned into blogging about cakes, and then one particular bake - a secret squirrel cake made for a very pregnant colleague - had the entire office clamouring for her to sign up for Bake Off.

DESIGN: The book is packed full of cake and sweet treat recipes.

"Everyone was like, 'Oh my God!', when I cut into that cake and there was a squirrel inside it. That was where it took a real creative slant. It's just snowballed from there."

While no longer at Joules, she's adamant she's designing as much now as ever.

"But I'm designing with food, rather than fabric," she notes. "It's just a different medium to be creative with."

Quintessential Baking is unapologetically heavy on the design front.

"I think that was the thing with 'style over substance'," she says. "If I had gone, 'OK, I'm going to completely ignore the design and the creative part of my brain', I always thought I may as well have left the Bake Off tent, because I wouldn't have been being true to myself as a baker."

As such, the book even has its own colour palette and colour-coordinated props. And the level of detail is extreme - from coffee and walnut cakes in disposable coffee cups, to mini 'fried egg' lemon cakes and paw-printed marmalade cat-flapjacks.

There were a few mishaps along the way, she reveals but nothing compares to the levels of stress she experienced in the Bake Off tent though.

"It was literally pandemonium, it was just insane," she recalls. "Time and fridge space are the enemy on that show. You have to run on your adrenaline and just deal with things when they don't go right and be able to change tack, and go, 'OK, I'll have to think of something else'."

A taste of Morris dance

THE Hartley Morris Men will be having a taster evening on September 17.

The event will be taking place at St George's Hall in the High Street, Wrotham, from 8.30pm onwards.

The side meets every Thursday and dances in pubs around the county.

For more information about the side and what they do you can, visit www.hartleymorrismen.btck.co.uk.

ITV star back on stage

STAR of ITV show Take Me Out, Paddy McGuinness, will be taking to the stage at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, next month.

The comedian is returning to his roots and the performance is part of his first stand-up comedy tour since 2011.

It will be taking place on October 15 at 7.30pm.

You can visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone to book.

Noel Fielding in Kent

MIGHTY BOOSH star Noel Fielding will be performing in Tunbridge Wells as part of his first live tour in five years.

An Evening With Noel Fielding will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre on November 13 at 8pm.

The show features Mr Fielding's unique brand of comedy, live animation and music.

For more details visit, www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Decadence of jazz age

A NEW stage adaptation The Great Gatsby will be performed at the Theatre Royal, Margate.

Adapted from F Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel by Stephen Sharkey and directed by Eliot Giuralarocca, the show is set in the decadence of America's 'jazz age'.

It will be performed on November 18 at 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Visit, www.theatreroyalmargate.com to book.

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Fun times for all in the Philippines

TRAVEL REVIEW: Phillppines

by Karen Bowerman

ISLAND: It is an hour's flight from the captial, Manila.

IF the marketing men think, 'It's more fun in the Philippines', then they obviously haven't been stand-up paddle boarding in pelting rain on the Loboc River. That's what I'm thinking as, drenched and dishevelled, I spot tourists gathering on the bank in the belief, it seems, that my predicament might make a good photo.

The rain ricochets off the river; I note the paparazzi are in the dry. I brave it out, and wave and smile. A man fires off a volley of shots then waves and smiles back. Such is my introduction to Bohol, 'The Island of Friendship', in the Philippines.

The Philippines is an archipelago of approximately 7,000 isles to the south and east of mainland Asia. It's known for its white sand beaches, clear water and dive sites, but Bohol also has heritage and culture.

The island and its tiny neighbour, Panglao, are in the central Visayas region, just over an hour's flight from the capital, Manila, in the north.

As the sky clears, my instructor, Troy, and I paddle through dripping rainforest to the small Busay Falls. Clearings reveal patterned huts, woven from banana leaves. A man, fishing for tilapia, drops a line from a bamboo pontoon. There's the smell of meat cooking on hot coals.

Suddenly a coconut plops into the water; I jump and joke about crocs.

"There aren't crocodiles but there are iguana," Troy says, sounding excited.

But it's another form of wildlife for which Bohol is known; it's the Philippine tarsier, said to have inspired Yoda in Star Wars. The nocturnal, fist-sized creature is among the smallest primates in the world. Its eyes cover three quarters of its head and it has an exceptionally long 'middle finger' (tarsus bone), hence its name.

I creep through a forest protected by the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary near Corella. Amazingly, I'm in luck; clinging with its sucker-tipped hands to a narrow branch, I spot a shy fellow snoozing. It opens its goggle eyes and almost seems to smile. Later, I meet "Tarsier Man" - Carlito Pizarras - who opened the sanctuary. He tells me the animals' habitats are being destroyed by agriculture and development and that they commit suicide by holding their breath if they're kept in captivity.

I visit during wet season (May to October) when everything's green. But it's still pretty dramatic; the hills seem to glow under a brooding sky.

Geologists believe the landscape was formed from marine coral deposits, sculpted over the centuries by erosion. Locals prefer legends. One focuses on a giant who fell in love with a mortal, and in grabbing her from her lover on her wedding day, squashed and killed her in his palm. The hills are his calcified tears.

On my way back to Panglao, where I'm staying, I stop at Baclayon Catholic church, built by Spanish missionaries in 1595. Luckily, it's time for something cheery. A local worshipper, Gigie Javier, shows me the church's prized possession - a cabinet containing statues of the holy family. The glass front has a large hole from a Japanese bomb blast in WWII.

Gigie asks me why I think the statues weren't damaged – it's clear they should have been. "They weren't touched because that's how miracles work!" she proclaims.

I stay at Alona beach on Panglao's south-west coast, where bars and seafood shacks hug the shore.

The Philippines is hot, humid and tropical, and even in the wet season, torrential downpours don't clear the air. I enjoy island-hopping but sightseeing is a sweaty business, especially in Manila. The capital's traffic is notorious; roads are regularly gridlocked.

But the super-polished, chrome jeepneys, packed with passengers and daubed with slogans, are a travel highlight. It costs just 8 pesos - approx 11p - for a 4km journey.

On my last night, I'm cajoled into karaoke. A group of us join the in-house musicians for a rendition of a song of their choice, accompanied by guitar and an egg maraca. We're so bad, everyone's in stitches.

"Killing me softly" I croak, "with this song", and can't help seeing the funny side. Maybe it is more fun in the Philippines, after all.

TRAVEL FACTS

Karen Bowerman was a guest of Hayes & Jarvis who offer a seven-night trip to Manila, Bohol and Palawan from £1,899per person, including B&B accommodation, tours, internal flights and transfers and flights from London Heathrow with Philippine Airlines.

For more details you can call 01293 735 831 or visit www.hayesandjarvis.com.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL
(12A, 105 mins) Comedy/Drama/Romance

THE good die young and that seems to be the inevitable outcome of Alfonso Gomez-Rejon's adaptation of Jesse Andrews' debut novel.

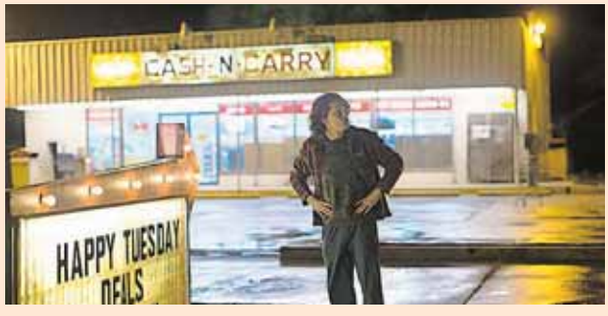
At the behest of his parents Greg Gaines visits estranged childhood friend Rachel Kushner, who has been diagnosed with leukaemia, and a faltering friendship takes root. To impress his high school crush Madison, Greg agrees to make a film for Rachel with his partner in creative crime, Earl. The pressure to deliver a masterpiece weighs heavily on Greg, creating friction with Rachel, who doesn't want to be surrounded by negativity. Me And Earl And The Dying Girl is a beautifully judged rites of passage drama, that eschews mawkishness and emotional manipulation in favour of a richly detailed portrait of adolescent dreams in crisis.

DOPE
(15, 103 mins) Comedy/Drama/Romance

WRITER-DIRECTOR Rick Famuyiwa's coming-of-age comedy drama is a dope crime caper about a trio of nerdy high school students, who rally against the drug dealers in their California neighbourhood.

Malcolm Adekanbi hopes to earn a place at Harvard. One afternoon he and his two friends encounter local dope dealer Dom, who invites them to a party. The students are caught in a police raid, which culminates with Dom hiding a large stash of MDMA in Malcolm's backpack before he is arrested. When Malcolm discovers the powder he panics. Malcolm, Diggy and Jib concede that they must become dealers to offload the MDMA and join forces with computer expert Will to set up their illegal operation.

AMERICAN ULTRA
(15, 96 mins) Thriller



CIA agent Victoria Lasseter presides over the Ultra program from Langley, Virginia, which has planted assassins around the country then conditioned them to live normal lives until a series of code words unlocks their true potential. The programme is deemed a failure and Lasseter's rival at the CIA, Adrian Yates, orders the removal of remaining Ultra assets. The only agent left in the field is stoner Mike Howell, a convenience store clerk in West Virginia. Lasseter feels guilty about her failure so she activates Mike with his code words then watches as he recalls his training to outwit Yates' henchmen and go on the run with his girlfriend Phoebe. Hiding from the government agency, Mike learns the full extent of his abilities and resolves to strike back at the people who wish to hurt him.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GARDENING: A Gladioli flower bulb onion.

Summer bulbs to lift or leave

DAHLIAS may still be blooming, but many other summer bulbs including lilies and gladioli, are now past their peak. So, what can you do to give summer bulbs the best chance of returning in future years? Some summer-flowering bulbs can be left in the ground – crocosmia corms just keep on producing year on year - but many more can't survive British winters.

The general rule with summer-flowering bulbs is to wait until growth has turned yellow and died down, because leaves that are green are still alive and will be providing the bulb with energy it will need to flourish next year.

Dahlias should be left until the growth is blackened by frost in autumn, then the stems trimmed back to about 15cm before lifting the tubers. Lift gladioli when the foliage is dying down but before the frost can kill off the corms. If you live in a mild area you can often get away with leaving them outside all year round if the ground is well drained.

Once bulbs have been lifted, you need to clean and dry them for storage. Discard damaged or diseased ones, then clean off the soil, dead foliage and any loose skin from the healthy bulbs. Place them on a wire mesh rack, not touching each other, and leave them in a cool, dry, airy place to finish drying.

Dahlias can be hung up in nets in the roof of your shed or garage, or stored in stacking trays with lots of holes in the sides for air circulation.

In mild areas with well-drained soil, you can risk leaving dahlia tubers in the ground in winter. Cut the tops down and cover the area with a 10cm layer of organic mulch, bark chippings or gravel, for extra insulation. To prevent disease during the winter, dust lifted summer bulbs with a fungicide and pack them in clearly labelled paper bags, storing them in a cool, dry, airy spot until it's time to plant them out again.

Other bulbs that need to be lifted for over-wintering include begonia, freesia and eucomis.

Lilies in the ground shouldn't need lifting, although if we have a particularly wet winter they may die off because they don't like wet feet while they're dormant.

If you have clay soil or poor drainage you may be better off growing them in pots and moving them under cover.

If you are growing them in pots, once blooms have faded, cut off the flower heads, removing the developing seed capsules, but leave the stems. Water and feed regularly to build the bulbs up for next year, either using a liquid feed or a controlled-release granular fertiliser.

The stems will naturally die in late summer or autumn and the bulbs can be left in the pots for three or four seasons. After this, plant the whole clump in the border. Don't leave them out of the soil for long as the bulbs will dry out.

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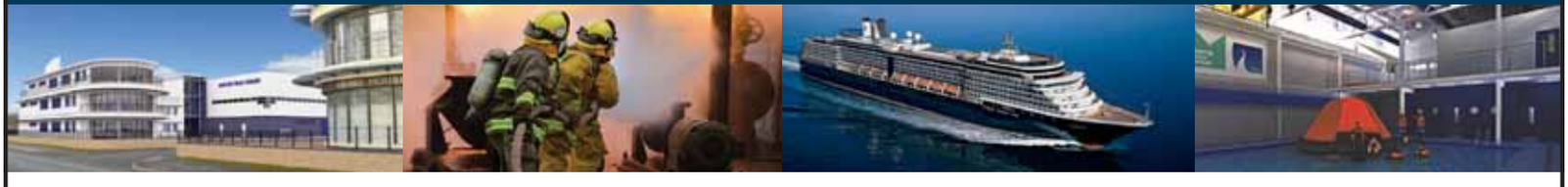

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Binmen need to recycle too

I LIVE in Dartford and our collections for rubbish and recycling are very good. All our recycling goes into one bin except glass.

Recently I noticed that the collection men were tipping my glass into my recycling wheelie bin. When this happened a second time I confronted the operative and was told that "he couldn't be bothered to put it into the right section of the freighter".

I responded that perhaps I would not, in future, be bothered to carry a heavy box of glass all the way to the end of my driveway, his response was "that's up to you".

I did report this to Dartford council and I believe that they acted on the information. However, I have heard of other people saying the same thing.

So whilst these councils get on their high horse about people putting the wrong things in the wrong bins perhaps they should look a little closer at the behaviour of their contractor's staff.

I now take my glass to the bottle banks on Dartford Heath where I live. I do not have time to keep trying to watch dustmen to see if they are doing their job properly. However, I am nearly 70 years of age and it is a pretty sorry state that I have had to resort to this action.

How much more recycling is being corrupted by this type of behaviour?

Margaret Jarrett, Dartford

We all need to play by the rules

WE LIVE in Westgate and, so far, we have not had any problems getting our bins emptied.

We wash out milk cartons and tins and try to separate the recycling from the general waste properly, as instructed.

Although this has been forced on us it has now become part of the daily routine and, apart from the storage space needed for all of the different bins, is no longer a problem.

However, a week ago we observed our bin men emptying the contents of our food waste caddy into our non-recycling bin before it was, in turn, emptied into the dust cart.

As I understand it, that waste will be disposed of at the land fill site so, I asked myself two questions: One, what is the point in separating the food waste in the first place? And, secondly, if Kent County Council is not recycling food waste why isn't it?

Is this possibly "don't do as I do, do as I tell you"?

Name provided but withheld, Westgate

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Zero tolerance must apply to everyone

FURTHER to the article in Kent on Sunday last weekend, about recycling, I would like to make my views heard.

I buy bio degradable bags for my food waste and ensure this is in the correct bin.

But, to my horror, on Thursday, August 28, I watched as the refuse collector tipped my food waste into my black bin, he also did this all the way up my street.

I checked my bin before it was emptied to verify what I had just seen.

I immediately phoned Thanet District Council who said that it should not of happened and I would receive a call back.

When I got a call back I was advised that the rubbish should not of been mixed as this would cause contamination and the whole load would have to go to landfill.

I was told my complaint would be logged and I would receive a confirmation via email, which said my complaint was being processed.

Why is it OK for Thanet District Council to mix waste, yet householders receive a notice stuck on the bin and refusal to take rubbish away, causing the bin to be left for a further two weeks?

I am absolutely furious that I spend money and time on a worthless exercise.

Carol Pettman via email

We got a big response to our special report on recycling last week.
If you missed the article, you can access it, in full, via the e-editions on our website. They allow you to read our newspaper as soon as it's published, and hundreds of back issues, in our online archive. So there's still time to make your voice heard on this topic by writing to the address in the left hand column.

Fine if no one adds to your bin

I ENJOYED your article on recycling last week.

I have become a committed recycler, so I was dismayed when collecting my emptied bin on Friday to find a sticker telling me there were black sacks in the bin and if it happened again my bin would not be emptied.

This highlights a problem; when you put your bin out for collection you have no control over what others put in it.

Dave Pike, Ashford

Debate needed on our car use

IAN Taylor is in his letter (Kos, 23.08) was guilty of ignoring the facts and not representing the best interests of British car drivers.

Fact: Road transport is a major contributor to air pollution. It was the clouds of pollution rising up from the stop start lorries waiting to get through the Dartford Crossing barriers all those years ago that inspired the CPRE report that proved free flow tolls were worth installing.

Fact: This country compared with other European countries has under-invested in non road transport for decades. Fact: You do not solve road congestion in the medium to long term by building new roads or widening existing ones.

Fact: Walking and cycling is a viable option for journeys of up to four miles for most people if it is safe to do so. You only have to notice the difference to traffic congestion during the school holidays to see the potential improvements to journey times greater investment in non car-based transport could offer.

Like everyone else when I drive my car driver I like to see as few other cars on the road as possible. The only way this is going to happen is by making the alternatives to using the car more attractive. For example, people choose to travel into London by train as it is the best way of getting there.

For some people who do not have access to a car they can become stranded in their own immediate area, so for Ian to suggest those people should just suffer, does his cause no good at all.

To properly solve transport problems requires joined up open-minded thinking that this country has simply not had much of. The blame for this is down to politicians and the road lobby. The car has a key role to play in providing transport but what we need is a more sustainable transport network, that is less damaging to the environment.

We need a proper public debate.

Alex Hills, CPRE Kent, Darford and Gravesham branch

Online story on email scam...

I RECEIVED a Dartford Crossing from 'noreply.gov.uk' email claiming to be a receipt for payment. I was suspicious as I live in Yorkshire and haven't been anywhere near the Dartford Crossing.

Being cautious I went online to see if it is a scam and found your article from July. Thank you. You may well have saved me from getting a virus.

Ann Davies, via email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

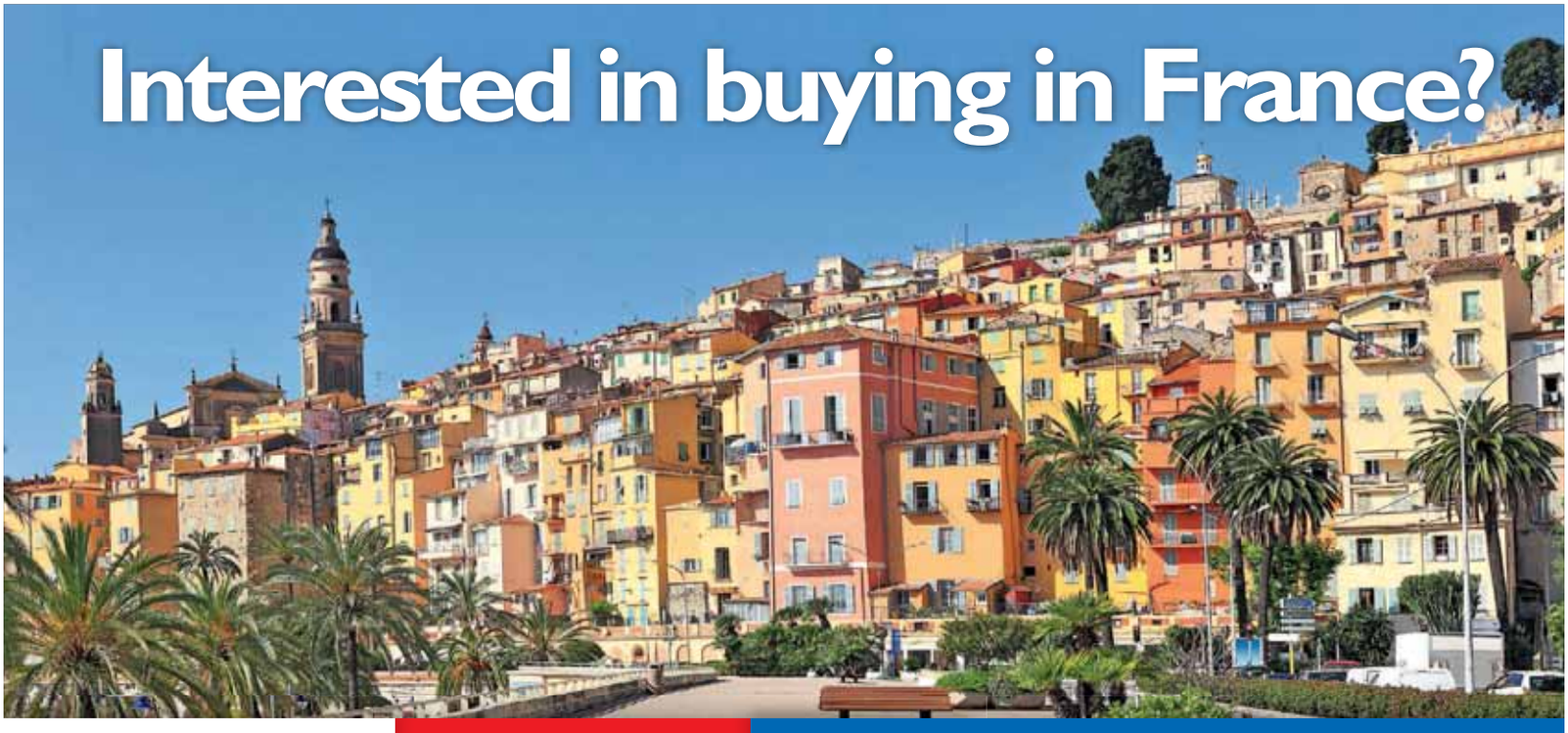
We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Kent Wheel at University of Kent, Canterbury

by **Alan Blackburn, Canterbury**

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**, or post it to **Archant KOS Media**, **Images of Kent**, **Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.
Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.



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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NEXT GENERATION?: the DC100 concept

MADE FOR IT: a 2007 Defender getting 'stuck in' rather than stuck

SPECIAL APPEAL: seductive limited edition versions of the final Defenders (left to right) Autobiography, Heritage and Adventure

Britain waves goodbye to Defender

DRIVING: Land Rover's true motoring icon will be axed soon, and a replacement produced, in time – but not in Britain...

IT is the end for the original Land Rover Defender.

Production of the car that can trace its roots back to the legendary Land Rover of 1948 ceases this year - at the UK Solihull plant anyway.

The labour-intensive production line might then be transplanted to India, home of Land Rover's owner TATA, to soldier on in markets outside the UK and Europe.

Meanwhile, the company remains committed to producing an all-new Defender, with the latest technology that Western buyers now demand; this is likely to be built at a new plant in Slovakia as Land Rover bids to become a truly global vehicle producer.

So, this off-road icon might never be made here again; perhaps all the more reason why fans should grab a last chance to buy a slice of British motoring history.

I re-acquainted myself with the type by driving a limited edition Adventure model and was reminded that the 'Landy' was never intended to be an on-road star; it can feel cumbersome.

And the Adventure is not cheap at £43,495 even for the short wheelbase 90 station wagon – prices for entry level Defender pick-ups start at £23,100 – but it is high-spec and has extra underbody protection, plus all-terrain tyres, adding to the visual impact of this off-roading classic.

ORIGINAL: the first production 'Landy' model

Sadly, I was unable to re-test this aspect of the car's awesome reputation, though I have fond memories of piloting a battered 1980s vintage Series III around a Scottish forest – nothing fazed it.

The Defender name was adopted in 1991, a nod to the vehicle's famous military prowess and clarification of its place in a growing Land/Range Rover line-up.

The name will surely be retained when a replacement arrives and, hopefully, carries over some of the styling cues already highlighted by the classy yet suitably rugged-looking DC100 concept vehicle.

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...
KENT LIFE

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Tivoli shows SsangYong's ambition

Korea's 4th largest carmaker is back in the UK to stay this time, building market share with the all-new Tivoli, writes Steve Loader...

CLEVER people the Koreans. Having seen ambitious compatriot brands, Hyundai and Kia, soar to success from virtually nowhere, SsangYong – South Korea's 4th largest car maker – is now also flexing its muscles.

Proof is the newly-launched Tivoli junior SUV/crossover. While its brick-like styling divides opinion, there is no doubting the strategy behind the overall execution.

Yes, SsangYong still has elements of the 'value brand' thinking that once dominated Hyundai and Kia, so the Tivoli is aggressively priced and comes with a superior warranty: five years/unlimited mileage, against the miserly three years/60,000-mile norm.

But the quality of this all-new SsangYong's manufacture and dynamics is far ahead of many of its previous products, highlighting how the Tivoli has been cast more to meet European tastes – seen as the benchmark in global car design – than the home market and soggy North American demands of its recent past.

The dashboard plastics still have a way to go to beat standards set by Hyundai and Kia or most European brands, but overall fit and finish is excellent, with aural proof from the satisfying clunk rather than a clang whenever a door is closed.

So where has SsangYong come from? Well, the name means 'double dragons' and can trace its origins back to 1954, but it didn't start building vehicles until 1964, specialising in 4x4 and special purpose vehicles.

Co-operation with Daimler-Benz led to the Mercedes-Benz-powered Musso, which introduced SsangYong to the UK in the 1990s, but takeovers and financial collapses dragged the company down until stability was restored with the 2011 takeover by India's Mahindra group, followed by a return to the UK market.

Until now, the company has concentrated on larger SUVs calculated to undercut prestige models; the smaller Tivoli represents a tilt at serious market share though.

Of course, the price is right (from £12,950) and that means generous equipment too such as alloys as standard, but the Tivoli is perhaps surprisingly roomy and sophisticated all round and there is a choice of front-wheel and all-wheel drive.

Our test car was a front-wheel drive model, which demonstrated that the Tivoli's higher ride height and seating position does not predict a lolling cornering stance that is all too familiar on SUVs.

The Korean is actually a lot better here than several key rivals, if not as sporty as the newly-launched – but much dearer – Mazda CX-3.

Not that you will be throwing the Tivoli around with either of the 1.6 engines on offer: the test car's 128PS (126bhp) petrol unit is no ball of fire, while the 115PS (113bhp) is similar, with a bit more low down urge and markedly superior fuel consumption – though you must pay a £1,250 premium upfront for such benefits.

SsangYong Tivoli EX 1.6 petrol 2WD

Price:	from £14,600
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Renault Captur

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CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest:Citroën C1 PureTech 82 manual 5-door Feel 5.4/52.3, 3.7/76.3, 43/65.7, 99. Lowest:Citroën C1 VTi 68 S&S manual 3-door Flair 4.5/62.8, 3.4/83.1, 3.8/74.3, 88. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

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GLOSS TECHNOLOGY

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Fuel consumption figures for new Fiat 500 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 65.7 (4.3); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) – 83.1 (3.4); Combined 60.1 (4.7) – 74.3 (3.8). CO2 emissions 110 – 88 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Motability

A buyer's guide

Liberation through Motability

FLEXIBLE: Motability buyers have the same range of choices as any able-bodied person, including trendy newcomers like the Jeep Renegade (above) or sporty yet practical Renault Captur crossover (left)

MOTABILITY has radically changed the way disabled people and their families live their lives.

The Government-backed scheme enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost to buy or lease a new or nearly new car privately, and helps them and their families with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and repairs, to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when motoring costs are soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.

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FIAT 500L
Available with:
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THE FIAT 500L RANGE FROM NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

Motability

For further information or for a complete list of Fiat cars offered on the Motability Scheme, please call Northgate Canterbury on 01227 828200.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.4 (9.3) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions 163 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Vehicles shown are Fiat 500L Pop Star 1.3 MultiJet Dualogic 85hp with NIL Advance Payment, plus Fiat 500L Trekking 1.3 MultiJet 85hp Dualogic with NIL Advance Payment and Fiat 500L MPW Lounge 1.3 MultiJet 85hp 7st with Advance Payment of £595, both featured with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. ^The Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ‡Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed by 30th September 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.

13097

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Motability

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*To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Nil advance payment applies to Fabia S and SE models (except SE 1.6 TDI 105 at £45), Yeti S and Outdoor S 1.2 TSI 105, and Octavia S 1.2 TSI 105 only. Fabia Hatch shown is S MPI 60PS 1.0 with optional metallic paint (£525). Octavia Hatch shown is Elegance 1.6 TDI 105PS manual (from £1,095 advance payment) with optional metallic paint (£525), bi-xenon lighting package (£1,190) and 18" Golus alloy wheels (£350). Yeti shown is Outdoor Elegance 1.2 TSI 105PS manual (from £795 advance payment) with optional metallic paint (£525) and part-silver roof rails (£160). Cars shown may vary from UK specification. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with any other offer. Retail sales only. Participating retailers only. Subject to availability. Valid for applications to Motability from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Motability fact file

UP to drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them. The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of around 2,000 car models
- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 mileage allowance over 3 years.

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage, and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. Around 600,000 customers currently choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the Scheme to their friends.

MOTABILITY STARS: the capacious FIAT 500L (above) and Skoda Roomster MPVs (far left), and the stylish Volvo V40 hatchback (left)

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Nil Advance Payment*
5 doors

Renault CLIO Dynamique Nav 1.2 16V 75
Nil Advance Payment*
Integrated touchscreen navigation

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 40.4 (7)–47.88 (5.9); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–70.62 (4); combined 51.4 (5.5)–60.1 (4.7). The official CO_2 emissions are 127–105g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 30 September 2015 and are correct at time of going to press. §NEDC is a standard European measurement of emissions and consumption. Range is influenced by several factors including speed, driving style, road conditions, use of electric accessories and external temperature. Motability is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.

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www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Don't worry...

RESEARCH PAYS OFF: Motability's own website can help you decide whether the FIAT Qubo (right), Skoda Yeti (below right) or Hyundai i40 Tourer (below) is the right car for you

MOTABILITY'S range of more than 2,000 vehicles can seem daunting.

Fortunately, the scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a short list of comparable cars, taking account of buying parameters, mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users.

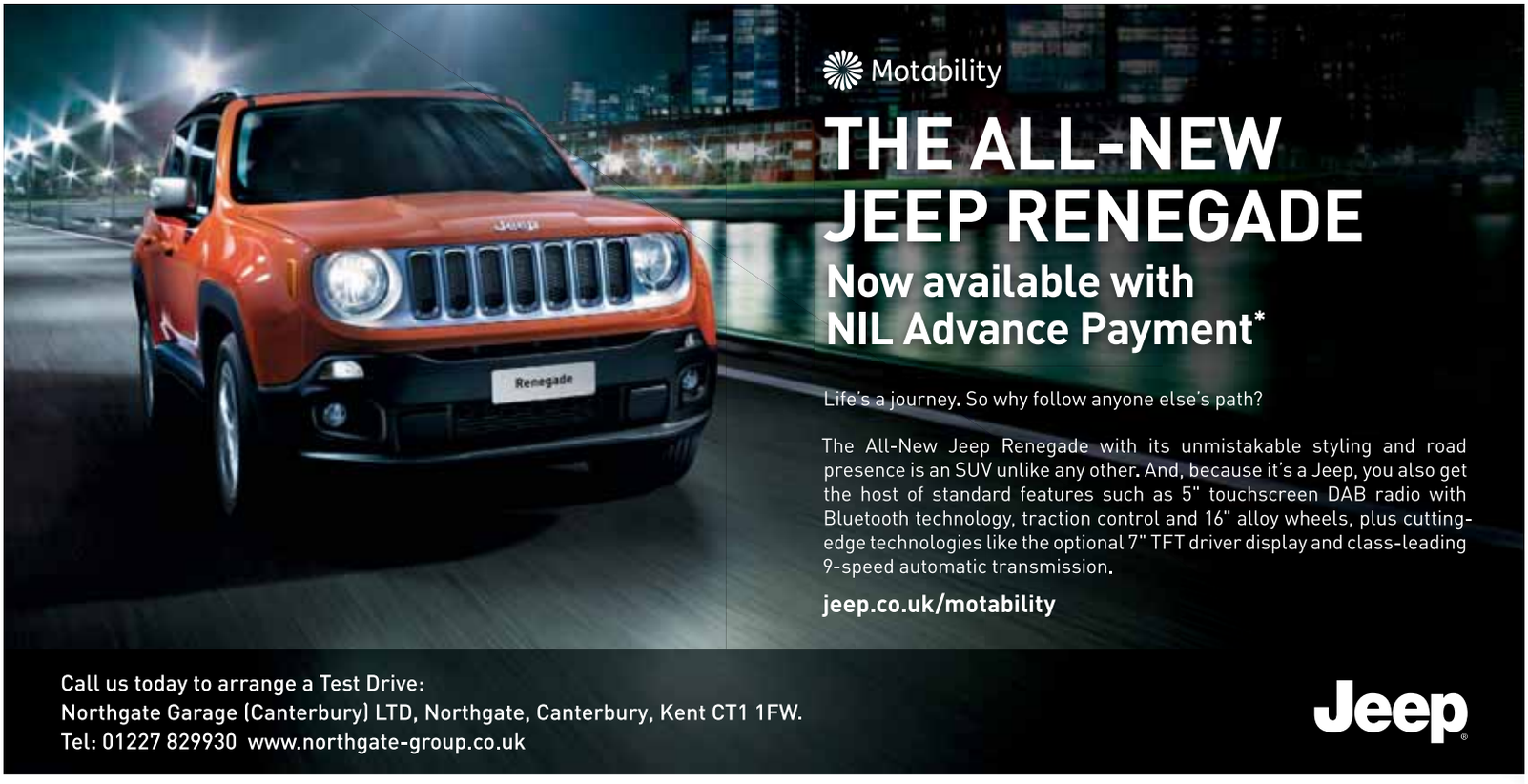
Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- **What kind of mobility allowance the user has**
- **What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything**
- **Preferred car type, make, model and number of doors**
- **Whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox**
- **Whether the driver is under-25**

But there are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).

There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as:

- **How smaller 2-3-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier, but may be both harder to close generally and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.**
- **How hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair user to open/close or access items, or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.**
- **Extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier.**



Motability

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jeep.co.uk/motability

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OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 47.9 (5.9) – 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.5 (8.7) – 51.4 (5.5), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) – 61.4 (4.6), CO_2 EMISSIONS: 160 – 120 G/KM. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption. *NIL Advance Payment applicable to Jeep Renegade 1.6 E-torQ Sport 4x2 Manual. Vehicle shown is Jeep Renegade 1.4 MultiAir Limited 4x2 Manual with Advance Payment of £995 with optional Bi-Colour Omaha Orange paint at additional cost. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st July and 30th September 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

13158

You really must take the test drive...

TEST IT OUT: whether it be the Renault Scenic XMOD MPV (above), Skoda Fabia Estate (below) or newly facelifted Hyundai ix20 supermini/MPV (left)

BOOK early – it's a New Registration month at the moment and dealers are busy, so map out a campaign to drive your chosen candidates close together, allowing more accurate comparisons.

Take time. You need enough to drive the car in all situations: town traffic, high speed cruising, and less well-maintained rural roads. An hour should be sufficient.

What are you looking for? Ease of access, seat and ride comfort, how refined it is in terms of engine, wind, tyre and mechanical noise. And especially...

Do you like the controls? Many carmakers are going their own way in search of the best ergonomics or human interaction with the controls, but they don't suit everyone such as the various electronic handbrakes. Importantly, can it be adapted?

Is it the right spec? Try to get a test car as close to the one you are interested in, even if you have to wait a few days for the dealer to arrange it or have to go to another dealership. Chances are the dealer will have a higher spec model than the one you want, it's then easier to be seduced by the car.

Make it a family outing. It can be a painful process of 'are we there yet?' proportions, but try to get as many of the would-be car users involved in the test drive - drivers and non-drivers. The sort of issues here are: yes, it's great for those in the front but what about those in the rear, and how is it particularly for the disabled driver or passenger?

Lipscomb Cars Ltd
www.lipscomb.co.uk

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The leading car scheme for disabled people

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Bridge House, Chart Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 3HZ

Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. Advance Payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 30th September and are correct at time of going to press. *V40 Nil Advanced payment offer is only valid on selected V40 stock at Lipscomb Volvo locations in Canterbury & Maidstone. Motability logo is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.
13110

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Do you qualify for Motability?

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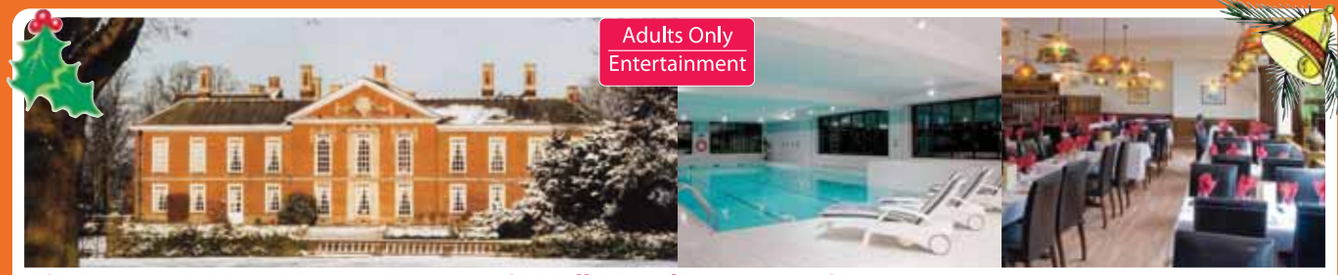

Christmas & New Year at Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

Christmas: 23 Dec, 2015 • 4 nights half board, £**239**pp • Quote: CB12-KOS

New Year: 30 Dec, 2015 • 3 nights half board, £**249**pp • Quote: NB12-KOS

Festive Season at Bosworth Hall is going to be extra special this year. We've got Christmas and New Year breaks - for adults only - full of festive cheer, including meals and entertainment.

4-night Christmas break includes a welcome drink on arrival with an opportunity to meet the staff, mulled wine and mince pies after Midnight Mass and a full traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Breakfast and dinner each day and nightly entertainment are also included.

3-night New Year break includes a welcome drink on arrival plus a Gala Hogmanay buffet dinner. Breakfast and dinner each day and entertainment each evening are also included.

INCLUDED - Christmas: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners and 1 Christmas lunch • Entertainment every evening

INCLUDED - New Year: 3 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 1 Gala Hogmanay buffet • Entertainment every evening

Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney – Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen

We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available

Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: WG1/2-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi

Carry on New Year Party at Bosworth Hall

29 January, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, £**119**pp • Quote: BW1-KOS

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. We've arranged a super entertainment line-up for our Party Break, including tributes to Frankie Valli, The Eagles and Kenny & Dolly. You will also enjoy 2-for-1 drinks both nights.

INCLUDED: 2-for-1 drinks from 7pm to 11pm both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Full programme of live entertainment both nights • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym)

Free Drinks • £10pp deposit
Entertainment • Over 40s only
Car Ferry included

Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**229**pp • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Join us for a private New Year party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the festivities into January and take you on a trip back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party PLUS Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lambs Navy Rum, Martini & Harveys Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

Free Drinks • £10pp deposit
Entertainment • Over 40s only
Car Ferry included

Come Dancing Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**279**pp • Quote: BP1-3-KOS

Dance enthusiasts can enjoy dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more at our Carry on New Year party weekend at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight. Six Times UK Ten Dance Champions Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill will dance 2 evening sessions for us and also provide a Latin workshop. Dance tuition - up to 8 hours - is by Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists **Holiday & Dance**. There are reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests who also have access to the show lounge with our super 60s entertainment line-up.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • Social dancing • Dance demonstrations and tuition • Gala New Year's Eve Ball • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

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Swale Academies Trust

Westlands School
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Teaching Assistant

Required for September start or as soon as possible thereafter

Salary £13,647 - £16,633 (pro rata)
(equal to £8,237 to £10,039 pa depending on experience)
27.08 hours per week, worked over 5 days, term time only

A post has become available to support pupils, who have a range of learning needs, both in our intervention unit and in mainstream classes. Experience in early-years reading skills, literacy and phonics would be an advantage.

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills, and, as part of the interview, may be asked to demonstrate their skills in supporting pupils.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk).
Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form.
Applicants should include a letter of application detailing how they meet the requirements of the person specification.

Closing date: Wednesday 9 September 2015 at noon

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check

Contact Details
Tel: 01795 477475 - Fax: 01795 479461 - Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA - Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Maths & Computing · Science

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care..

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Business Office Administrator - Dover

Full time **Hours: 37.5 per week** **Closing date: 18/09/2015**
Salary: £16,482.75 per annum

Experience and Qualifications
- Maths and English GCSE A*-C or equivalent
- 2 years' experience working within an Administrative environment
- Excellent IT Skills
- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Experience in the health sector desirable

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Danielle Edwards, Business Office Supervisor, on 01304 245955 or Danielle.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

Receptionist/Administrator - Margate

Full time **Hours: 37.5 per week** **Closing date: 18/09/2015**
Salary: £16,171.66 per annum

Qualifications and Experience
- Exceptional Customer Service skills
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written
- Ability to learn quickly and confidently communicate service information
- Highly organised

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Caroline McSkeane, OPD Admin Supervisor on 01843 234372
For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 222684
E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

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Abbey Court School

"We grow people"
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We are currently looking for a

TEACHING ASSISTANT

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Medway Scale, Grade D2
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Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic?
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If so, share your talents and expertise with us.
Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.
Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am – 3.45pm), term time only.
Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.
Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.
Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.
This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone
(stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)
Please note CV's will not be accepted
Closing date: 18 September 2015

Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
A member of Swale Academies Trust

Lesson Supervisors

Required for October 2015
Term time only, 33.3 hours, 5 days a week
Salary starting at £17,475 rising to £19,222 pa (pro-rata) (equal to £13,024- £14,326)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence, excellent communication skills and the ability to adapt quickly to a varied and constantly changing routine.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and ideally have experience of giving support in the classroom, possibly as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hour unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day. 5 weeks paid holiday entitlement, pro rata

Part time Catering Assistant

Required for immediate start
10 hours per week - 39 weeks per year 12.00 – 2.00pm daily Hourly rate: £7.07 - £7.60

Food preparation/cooking experience and a basic food hygiene certificate preferred, but if you have a positive attitude, good practical skills and are willing to work, we will teach you.

Ofsted 2012 - Outstanding

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk).
Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form

Closing date: 16 September 2015 (noon

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check

Contact Details
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 - Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA - Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Maths & Computing | Science

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
A member of Swale Academies Trust

Secretary

Required as soon as possible

37 hours per week, over 5 days, Term time plus 5 Staff Development Days and four weeks in the school holidays
Swale Academies Trust Support Staff Pay Scheme Band 3
£14,671-£16,633 (£13,585 -£ 15,402 pro rata)

This successful secondary school is seeking an additional new member of staff to join its effective and dedicated team of administration staff.

The successful applicant will be resilient, accurate, and well organised. They will have had experience of working in a busy school office and be able to respond to the ever changing needs of such an environment. An extensive and working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages is essential and experience of SIMS is desirable.

Main duties will include secretarial support to the teaching staff, a Deputy Headteacher and Community Principal and administration support for pupil admissions. Other duties will include answering the telephone, minute taking, and whatever other assistance is needed in order to provide support for staff, pupils, parents and others. The ability to work effectively as part of a team and demonstrate a professional approach at all times is required

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check

Ofsted 2012 - Outstanding

Recruitment packs including a person specification and job description are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should also include a covering letter detailing how they meet the person specification.

Closing date: Wednesday 9 September 2015 at noon
Contact Details
Tel: 01795 477475 - Fax: 01795 479461 - Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA - Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Maths & Computing | Science

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that One Pound Lane Ltd has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence to operate the following Regulated Activities: Plays, films, live and recorded music and the performance of dance between 08.00 and 02.00hrs from Sunday to Thursday and between 08.00 and 03.00hrs on Friday and Saturday, and the sale of alcohol both on and off the premises, between 10.00 and 02.00hrs from Sunday to Thursday and between 10.00 and 03.00hrs on Friday and Saturday; Late Night Refreshment between 23.00 and 02.30hrs, Sunday to Thursday and between 23.00 and 03.30hrs on Friday and Saturday; with one extra hour at the end of the day on the Sunday of the Easter Bank Holiday, two May Bank Holidays and the August Bank Holiday. Also, if not a Friday or Saturday, one extra hour at the end of the day on Boxing Day and to celebrate St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. David's, St. Patrick's, St. Valentine's, Halloween and Guy Fawkes. On New Year's Eve: to continue from the end of trading until the beginning of trading on New Year's Day; all at the following premises: One Pound Lane, 1 Pound Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2BZ. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 25/09/2015. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that their identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for Grant of New Premises Licence

We Russell Distillers Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for grant of a new premises license the provision of licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol from 08.00 – 23.00 daily

In respect of the premises situated at Pump House No 5, Leviathan Way, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent ME4 4LP to be known by the sign of Copper Rivet Distillery. A Copy of the application can be inspected at the Licensing Department, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during office hours or on our website at www.medway.gov.uk/licensing.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Unit at the Council Offices or by e-mail to licensing@medway.gov.uk by 25th September 2015 or by telephone 01634 337107 after which date no objections will be considered.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. Representations must relate to one or more of the four licensing objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE, and OR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

THE NATIONAL GRID NEMO LINK LIMITED (PEGWELL BAY) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2014

COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF LAND AT SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE ROAD AND EBBSFLEET ROUNDABOUT, RAMSGATE, KENT

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT the public inquiry into the confirmation of the Order that was due to be held by Inspector I. Jenkins BSC CENG MICE MCIWEM at Discovery Park Event Centre, Discovery Park, Innovation House, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich CT13 9FF, from 10 am on 8 September 2015, **IS CANCELLED**.

Nemo Link Limited (NLL) has submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for confirmation an Order made by them under section 10 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to, the Electricity Act 1989 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. The Order would authorise NLL to acquire compulsorily rights over the land at Pegwell Bay described in the Order, for the purpose of constructing a high voltage direct current electrical interconnector to allow the transfer of electrical power beneath the North Sea between the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The public inquiry was due to be held to consider relevant objections as defined in the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. As all relevant objections have now been withdrawn the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has cancelled the public inquiry. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will now proceed to decide whether to confirm the Order.

BIRCHAM DYSON BELL LLP
50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents
acting on behalf of Nemo Link Limited

6 September 2015

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Mr Trevor Nash MCIOB, Kent BR8

Appeal Panel hearing – 20 August 2015

An Appeal Panel considered an appeal by Mr Trevor Nash on 20 August 2015 in relation to a finding and penalty arising from a breach of Rule 3 of the Rules of Conduct for Members 2007. The Appeal Panel determined that the decision of the Disciplinary Panel was wrong and referred the matter back to a Disciplinary Panel for a new hearing.

Full details can be found on the website www.rics.org.

Home advantage crucial, say clubs

Kent sides on England's chances during the Rugby World Cup

DECISIVE: Twickenham will sound to the roar of the home crowd which could be the extra push to drive England forward Pictures: PA

Rugby Union

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HOME advantage could prove the difference for England in the upcoming Rugby World Cup, according to local coaches.

With the tournament now less than a fortnight away, anticipation and expectation is building and rugby clubs in Kent say the hosts' chances are strong.

Leigh Fitchie, head coach of Folkestone Rugby Club told KoS: "From a coach's perspective, we have everything you need to win a World Cup. There are players with experience in Lions tours and in the Heineken Cup against the opponents they'll be facing in the tournament. The squad has depth, we've got a number of quality players in every position.

"The key, though, is playing at home. It makes such a difference as recent results have shown. If you look at the past tournaments, New Zealand won it on home soil last time, South Africa did in 1995 and we got to the final in 1991. Home teams consistently do well in World Cups and we've got a great chance. It'd be disappointing to not make the semi-finals at least."

Gavin Drummond of Dartford Valley RFC agreed on the importance of playing in familiar surroundings: "We always seem to play better at home and the crowd at Twickenham always get right behind the players."

The omission of Danny Cipriani from the squad, which was announced on August 27, proved a divisive topic.

While Drummond felt the controversial 27-year-old should have been included in Stuart Lancaster's squad, Fitchie felt it was the right decision.

"We don't know what goes on day-in, day-out other than what's reported in the media," he said.

"The coaches see how these players work together and have an idea of how the team should play. Cipriani has the X-factor but there's a fine line between that genius and letting the team down."

On the topic of key opponents, Drummond said: "There are a lot of great teams. Wales have got a strong side and a lot of the lower-ranked teams have improved a lot in recent years. Samoa in particular are ones to watch out for."

England kick off their World Cup campaign against Fiji on September 18 at Twickenham, with the final taking place at the same venue on October 31.

Rob proves Key as Kent postpone Lancs party

KENT batsman Rob Key returned to form as the home side made Lancashire wait a little longer for promotion in their LV= County Championship match.

After a difficult campaign, Key reminded everyone what he was capable of at the crease, hitting a century in a superb first innings at Canterbury.

Captain Sam Northeast also impressed with a score of 139 as he surpassed 1,000 runs for the summer.

After his side declared on 570 for eight at the end of the second day, Northeast said: "It was a big moment approaching my thousand runs for the summer because I'd never got there before. So yes, it was an important day for me personally, but I'm more pleased with a big total on the board and our position in the match.

KEY: Kent's batsman hit 113 in the first innings

"We have recent history with Lancashire and there's still a sour taste after the T20 quarter final defeat here. We knew what they need to get promoted, so it'd have been nice to have won the game, get one up on them this time and maybe make them wait that little bit longer."

That they did, as Lancashire were bowled all out for 259...some 91 runs shy of the total needed to to clinch the four batting bonus points that would have secured their return to the top flight.

Matt Coles took three wickets for Kent in a terrific bowling performance as the follow-on was enforced on Thursday.

Lancashire responded well, however, with some sensible batting on the final day to draw the match.

Captain Steven Croft proved the inspiration, batting throughout the mid-session to score 31 in 149 minutes before tea.

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

Gemili vows to bounce back from injury woe

DARTFORD'S Adam Gemili has promised he'll come back better than ever after missing out on the IAAF World Championships in Beijing through injury.

The 21-year-old suffered a hamstring tear in June, and British Athletics performance director Neil Black said it was "too big a risk" for Gemili to compete.

In a video log posted on his personal YouTube channel, the 2014 European champion told fans: "My body just wasn't quite right and ready to run yet which is a shame, but considering where I came from I'm very happy and I'll be back and ready to run for Rio.

"It's been a great World Championships for the team, we've learned loads and hopefully we'll take that into Rio."

As well as looking forward to the Olympic Games in Brazil next summer, Gemili also tweeted his excitement at competing in the next World Championships in 2017, saying: "London 2012 was the start of my journey. Can't wait to get back in that stadium."

DETERMINED: Gemili is focused on returning to fitness

HOME: Hartsdown Park will host visit of Ebbsfleet United next month

Brown's boys need to reverse early fortunes

PRESSURE may start to grow on Margate's management team if they cannot stop the rot which has dogged their season so far.

Having secured promotion from the Ryman League last season, the Blues have struggled to find their rhythm in the National League South, going into this weekend's clash at home to St Albans still seeking their first three points of the campaign.

Terry Brown's challenges come thick and fast too with an eagerly anticipated visit by Ebbsfleet United to Hartsdown Park next Saturday.

The Fleet have flown out of the traps this season and will be looking to further bolster their championship credentials with a victory over their Kent rivals.

Meanwhile, fans of Dover Athletic can get to see highlights of their team's clash this Saturday away at Southport tonight (Sunday).

BT Sport will include the Whites' game as part of their highlights programme on BT Sport 1 at 10.30pm. Other games featured include Aldershot v Halifax and Welling v Tranmere.

Teen sailor off to World Champs

A TEENAGE sailor has been selected to represent Great Britain at the 2015 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships.

Ross Banham, 16, of Bethersden, near Ashford, topped the boys' 420 leader board at the 2015 RYA ISAF Youth Worlds Selection Event with a race to spare.

Banham's victory secured his place at the championships, which begin in Malaysia on December 27, with sailing partner Max Clapp.

Banham said: "I'm excited because it is an event we have never been to before. The racing will be so hard but really fun at the same time."

Past winners of the event include Olympic champions Ben Ainslie and Iain Percy.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

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